

PLO seeks Soviet support

NICOSIA (R) — A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegation flew in Moscow Wednesday seeking Soviet support to abort a U.S. "war plan" in the Gulf, a Palestinian official said.

Yasser Abd Rabbo, member of the delegation, said that the PLO would also propose a meeting of foreign ministers from the Soviet Union, Arab and West European countries to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis by linking it to a settlement of the Palestinian issue. "It aims at finding a Palestinian-Soviet-European political coordination to abort the war plan prepared by Washington and provide a bigger opportunity to settle regional conflicts on a balanced and just basis," he said.

Abd Rabbo, who visited Iraq last week, is accompanied by another member of the PLO Executive Committee, Mahmoud Abbas. U.S. President George Bush has rejected an "initiative" by Iraq linking the Gulf crisis with other unresolved Middle East issues. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said he saw a link and renewing his call for a Middle East peace conference, but insisted Moscow would accept nothing less than a total Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

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British MPs en route to Baghdad

AMMAN (R) — Three British opposition members of parliament arrived in Amman Wednesday en route to Baghdad, hoping to "talk peace" with President Saddam Hussein. "We've come here on a mission of peace," said Dennis Canavan, a member of the Labour Party. "We're here to talk peace, not to talk war," said Bob Parry, the group's leader. "That's been the trouble in this war in the Middle East. There's not been enough talk that it could be solved peacefully... and we believe it can be done..." Parry said he brought some 38 letters and money from friends and relatives of British held by Iraq at strategic sites to deter a Western attack. "I believe some of the people are very ill in Baghdad and we're certainly going to make a representation on their behalf," he said. The MPs are the first in a group of European legislators due to go to Baghdad to discuss peaceful solutions to the Gulf crisis. The group, calling itself the Conference for Peace in the Middle East, is made up of Irish, Italian and Maltese legislators including former Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff. Between 14 and 20 of them are expected to go.

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Rabat summit seeks Arab formula to end Gulf crisis

King Hussein, Benjedid and Hassan II meet

By a Jordan Times staff reporter with agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein, Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and King Hassan II of Morocco held a mini-summit Wednesday in Rabat in a bid to pave the way for an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

No immediate details were available of the meeting, held behind closed doors, but informed sources said in Amman the focus of the summit was a new Arab initiative to resolve the Gulf crisis triggered by Iraq's takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reporting King Hussein's arrival in Rabat, said that the meeting was expected to cover

the "latest developments in the Arab World and the Gulf crisis." The summit leaders, it said, "will attempt to find an Arab formula to resolve the Gulf crisis."

The King is accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Political Advisor Adnan Ahn Odeh and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

According to a source quoted by Reuters, the King would insist on an Iraqi pullout from Kuwait as part of any solution to the Gulf crisis.

The news agency quoted an unidentified Foreign Ministry official as saying that the Rabat summit was intended to signal to the world that those who oppose the presence of American-led Western forces in the Gulf also reject the Iraqi invasion.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who arrived in Amman Tuesday and left Wednesday after talks here (see page 2), has said that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was willing to open negotiations with the United Nations secretary-general and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to resolve the crisis. There was no immediate American reaction to Arafat's statement, made to an American newspaper and also carried by the Jordan Times Wednesday.

Another Jordanian official quoted by Reuters, the Rabat summit leaders "hope to agree on an Arab solution that would be backed internationally."

The King would put forward peace proposals compatible with United Nations resolutions to try to win both Arab and international backing, the official said.

"Therefore, (the King) will insist on Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait to be followed six months later by a plebiscite in Kuwait to determine the future of the country," the official told Reuters.

One senior official said Saddam had told the King, who visited Baghdad two weeks ago, that he agreed in principle to withdraw from Kuwait provided this was linked to the settlement of other regional disputes, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, at an international peace conference.

The West has rejected Iraq's bid to link the two issues.

If the three leaders gathered in Rabat found common ground on a peace plan, they might invite Sultan Qaboos Ben Said of Oman

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Jardaneh warns of serious problems unless aid received

Minimum of \$1.5 billion needed this year; Jordan continues to get oil from Iraq

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's economy could be in serious trouble unless it receives assistance to cope with the impact of the Gulf crisis and sanctions on Iraq before October, and the Kingdom will need a minimum of \$1.5 billion in loans and grants this year to manage its fiscal problems, Finance Minister Basal Jardaneh said Wednesday.

"We would like to see this (assistance) coming in the form of grants, parts of them to the budget and parts of them to finance projects that would help overcome the problems faced by the private sector," Jardaneh told a press conference. "Another part can come in the form of soft loans, and the third part should come in the form of development loans," he said.

Another area where Jordan hopes for international help is its efforts to address its \$8.4 billion foreign debt but "debt rescheduling or debt refinancing is not

suitable for us under the current circumstances," he said. "We would like to see more understanding towards Jordan's foreign debts and we would like to get more support in the form of debt reduction," he added in his first official comment on the Kingdom's economy after the Aug. 2 Iraqi takeover of Kuwait.

Jardaneh in line with a strategy agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), had managed to reach a point when it was able to manage its foreign debts while maintaining growth of the economy. But the Gulf crisis has thrown all these measures into total chaos.

Jardaneh said a delegation was due to visit Washington soon for talks with the IMF and World Bank on the state of the Kingdom's economy and measures that could be adopted to address its problems.

Jordan has informed the United Nations that it stands to lose over \$4.1 billion as a result of the Gulf crisis and its adherence to the United Nations-imposed international sanctions against Iraq, the Kingdom's

major trading partner. This amount includes \$2.6 billion in loans that Jordan has guaranteed for Iraq during the 1980-1988 Iraq-Iraq war, the minister explained Wednesday.

"We hope that (the creditors) do not call these loans," he said.

Jardaneh affirmed that Jordan will continue to get oil from Iraq partly because the oil shipments, which are carried in tanker trucks across the border, the Kingdom has a special pricing deal with Iraq under which it is assured of a \$16.4 per barrel price regardless of the international market price. However, he added, Jordanian purchases of Iraqi oil were "an interim arrangement" pending "suitable alternatives." He said there was no "further development" after the recent Iraqi offer to supply oil free of cost to the Third World countries.

There is a "serious dislocation of Jordan's resources" as a result of the Gulf crisis and sanctions on Iraq, he said. "The economic repercussions of this are substantial."

Jardaneh said the losses represented about 50 per cent of Jordan's gross domestic product (GDP) while other countries' losses, as a result of

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Rafsanjani says Iran should be 'ready'

NICOSIA (R) — President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Wednesday urged Iran's Revolutionary Guards to remain alert to deal with any development in the Gulf crisis.

"The condition prevailing in the region is not very clear to us and we should be quite ready in the event of any situation. It is a serious need," Iran's IRNA news agency quoted him as telling a gathering of Revolutionary Guard commanders in Tehran.

Iran has said the massive buildup of U.S. and other foreign forces in the region after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait has created an explosive situation in the Gulf.

It has called for a U.S. military pullout from the region and an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

There was no reference in Rafsanjani's speech, as reported by IRNA and Tehran Radio, to a statement by Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei last week that the fight against U.S. forces in the Gulf amounted to holy war.

Rafsanjani praised Iran's armed forces for their performance in the eight-year war against Iraq.

Assad due Saturday

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad will start a visit to Tehran Saturday, the 10th "anniversary" of the start of the Gulf war in which he backed Iraq against Iran, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

'Talks' with S. Arabia

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati indicated Wednesday that Tehran would open talks with Saudi Arabia, its greatest rival in the Muslim world, to seek a solution to the Gulf crisis.

Tehran radio quoted Velayati as saying Iran believes that "strengthening of relations with each one of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries will help towards a final resolution of the current crisis."

Velayati's comments came after the departure of Oman's foreign minister, Yousef Ben Alwaili, to Tehran.

He said Iran will hold talks with "each one of the regional countries."

Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia comprise the membership of the GCC.

Oman has mediated between Iran and Saudi Arabia in the past, since Riyadh severed ties with Tehran in 1987, accusing it of terrorism and subversion.

U.N. chief pleads for dialogue in Gulf crisis

Perez de Cuellar ready to study Iraqi invitation

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has made an impassioned plea for a political settlement in the Gulf crisis, saying the past few weeks had ranked among the most frustrating in his 50-year career.

Speaking at a lunch shortly before the opening of the General Assembly, the U.N. chief departed from prepared remarks and warned of a "tremendous conflagration" if a negotiated solution was not found to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

"After 50 years of diplomacy and 70 years of age, I am discouraged because I do not bear anything that means dialogue, peace, justice (or) the resolution of the problem we are facing now," he said.

Calling on his audience, which included ambassadors from the Security Council, he said:

"Please don't give the floor to arms, give the floor to dialogue."

Perez de Cuellar spoke of the threat of a global war, saying: "I am frustrated because I would like to do something to resolve this terrible problem, which could end up in a tremendous conflagration, not only political but economic disaster for the whole world."

Later, in a television interview, Perez de Cuellar said he would consider "very, very carefully" any invitation from Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to go to Baghdad to negotiate a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis.

He said on the ABC television network programme News Nightline that he was aware of a newspaper report quoting Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat as saying Saddam was willing to negotiate a political solution to

the conflict with Perez de Cuellar.

But Perez de Cuellar added that he needed "something more official" than a news report before considering a trip.

"If I receive a clear-cut invitation from Saddam Hussein, it is something which, as I told you before, I will consider very, very carefully."

However, Perez de Cuellar placed conditions on any trip. He said he would have to discuss any invitation within the United Nations and get "some indication" or assurances from Saddam that the trip would be useful.

He said Iraq would have to show some flexibility and be prepared to discuss withdrawing its military forces from Kuwait.

Any negotiations to resolve the crisis would "of course" have to include the exiled government of Kuwait, he said.

Jordan rejects U.S. criticism of hosting of pan-Arab conference

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Wednesday dismissed criticism by the U.S. over its hosting of a pan-Arab conference attended by leftist leaders in the Arab World, including George Habash and Nayef Hawatmeh, saying the gathering and a headline statement it issued were all part of the democratic life in the country.

"We have demonstrated that we have moved to building a democratic society," Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin told a press conference. "We have democratic institutions, we have freedom of expression," he said. "This is one area where you have to allow for freedom of expression."

The conference, organised by a Jordanian coalition of leftist activists and organisations and attended by over 120 political parties and popular groupings in the Arab World, vehemently criticised the American-led military presence in the Gulf and warned attacks "against American interests everywhere and all means at the same moment an American military attack is launched against Iraq," it also endorsed a call for holy war against the Western presence in

Saudi Arabia, which houses Mecca and Medina, Islam's two holiest shrines.

The American criticism of Jordan being the host of the conference was made by State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler. The United States was "surprised and dismayed that this conference took place and we have told the Jordanians so," she told a State Department press briefing on Tuesday. "We want to work with Jordan during and after this crisis in the Gulf. Hosting this conference is very hard to understand."

Izzeddin, appearing at a press conference along with Finance Minister Basal Jardaneh Wednesday, countered: "Of course, we may be the reaction from the Americans or from some other parts of the world is linked with what is happening in the region."

"If it had happened before it would not have drawn" this reaction, he added.

In any event, he said, "if you want to build a democratic society then you have to allow for freedom of expression. I do not think one should attach much importance in this regard."

In separate comments after his press conference, Izzeddin said he had no information that the U.S. administration had lodged a formal

protest with the Jordanian government over the Kingdom's hosting of the conference.

The U.S. criticism was mainly based on the presence of Habash and Hawatmeh at the conference. The leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) are considered "terrorists" by the United States administration.

In her comments Tuesday, spokeswoman Tutwiler specifically referred to their presence at the gathering. "The overt anti-Americanism displayed by the conference and by the call for the overthrow of Egypt's President (Hosni) Mubarak were not surprising, given the guest list of the conference," she said.

"We are appalled by the statements that were made," she said. "Such language is not only inflammatory but it can have the result of inciting the kind of violence which it threatens," she added.

Tutwiler did not refer to certain other specific parts of the final statement of the conference which said its long-term objectives included democracy in the Arab World and respect for Arab human rights.

Mideast dominates General Assembly session

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The 45th U.N. General Assembly has convened for a three-month session expected to be dominated by the Gulf crisis and the Middle East.

But debt and development, poverty, the environment, aids, terrorism, narcotics and the changing role of women also were expected to be major topics.

The assembly grew to 160 nations with the entry of Liechtenstein. But when East and West Germany unite in October and occupy a single seat, the membership again will fall to 159.

Guido de Marco, the foreign minister of Malta, was elected by acclamation as president of the General Assembly, a largely ceremonial post, but one with influence to arrange the agenda of more than 155 items. The position rotates yearly among regional groupings.

De Marco, in his inaugural speech, cited both new optimism and dangers in the international situation.

He called the forthcoming unification of Germany a sign of new optimism and "a symbol of the new bearing role of Europe with its dismantling of barriers, the freeing of peoples, the reinstating of democratic institutions and the progressive abandonment of armaments."

But the president also called the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait not only "an outrageous and illegal action in itself, but an action which also reflects the bitterness and turmoil, the hatred and injustice which prevail in the Middle East."

He said events in Iraq and Kuwait in recent weeks could mean that the world is on the verge of a war that the U.N. founders agreed to avoid 45 years ago.

The Security Council, he said, has responded clearly and unequivocally in demanding the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi forces and restoration of the emiri government of Kuwait.

"We cannot shirk our responsibilities," he said, adding that people around the world were looking to the assembly for moral and political guidance.

The General Assembly cannot adopt binding resolutions, but its statements carry weight as the expression of the will of the international community.

In addition to the Gulf crisis, de Marco said, the international community was faced with continuing unresolved conflicts, especially the Palestinian problem.

"The Palestinian question has a dimension which goes far beyond the occupied territories," he said. "It creates rancor, soul-searching, prejudices and, unfortunately, hatred."

He called convening of an international conference on the Middle East a fundamental step to peace in the region. This session, he said, must exert all its authority and use all diplomatic pressure on the parties concerned in order to reach a comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian question.

"Delay in solving the Palestinian issue is a denial to the Palestinian people of the country which is theirs, and to Israel of those secure and guaranteed frontiers to which it is entitled."

Intra-Arab row

Intra-Arab differences over the Gulf crisis erupted at the opening of the General Assembly when envoys from Kuwait and Qatar rebuked the PLO's U.N. observer for referring to a peace proposal floated last month by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Zehdi Terzi, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's representative, said he was welcoming the U.N.'s newest member, Liechtenstein, on behalf of the Arab group at the United Nations.

He then went on to refer to a proposal by PLO Chairman Arafat linking a settlement of the

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Iraq seizes assets of firms of countries imposing sanctions

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq announced Wednesday that it has seized cash deposits and all other assets held by companies and banks from countries honouring U.S.-led economic sanctions against it.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the new law, "protecting Iraqi interests, money, and right in Iraq and abroad," was passed Tuesday night by the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC).

Under the law, profits and interests earned by the companies and banks affected by the decision, also will be seized.

The agency did not provide figures or name the countries that would be affected by the decision.

But it clearly involved countries that had frozen Iraqi and Kuwaiti assets or abided by a trade embargo, clamped by the United Nations after Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait in a dispute over land, money and oil.

The RCC, Iraq's highest policy-making body, is the only authority that can override Iraq's rubber-stamp national council, or parliament.

"All assets — cash deposits, property, interest and other revenue — belonging to the governments, institutions, companies and banks of the countries that have joined oppressive resolutions against Iraq are hereby confiscated," said the new law, text of which was carried by INA Wednesday.

It made no mention of Kuwait. But earlier RCC decisions had stated that Iraqi law also applied to the emirate, which Baghdad annexed six days after the invasion.

The United States and Britain froze Iraqi and Kuwaiti assets immediately after the invasion. Other countries, including Britain's 11 European Community (EC) partners quickly followed suit.

On Aug. 6, the United Nations Security Council imposed worldwide embargo on trade with Iraq. Hundreds of foreign firms have operations in Iraq.

Many were involved in contracts worth billions of dollars

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Thatcher: Air blockade is near

BRITISH PRIME Minister Margaret Thatcher said Wednesday that the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council had agreed to impose an air embargo against Iraq.

British government sources said that under the terms of the embargo all aircraft headed for Baghdad could be ordered to land in an inspecting country or be refused overflight permission by that country.

"We have been working for an (air embargo) agreement with the five," Thatcher told a news conference in Budapest, Hungary.

"I believe that has been reached. It will now have to go the (full) Security Council for voting, which I suspect will not come before about Friday."

Thatcher said.

Diplomats and government officials met Tuesday to refine the language of a resolution so it conforms to international air traffic laws, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov said Tuesday at U.N. headquarters.

Vorontsov and other diplomats said Tuesday that the full Security Council was expected to pass the resolution in the next few days, before French President Francois Mitterrand arrives to deliver a speech Monday condemning Iraq before the U.N. General Assembly.

Planes could not be shot down under a ban by a 1944 international civil aviation convention.

The resolution is expected to demand that nations — mainly

Iraq's Arab neighbours — cut air links by denying planes travelling to Iraq and Kuwait landing and overflight rights.

However, officials close to the talks held at France's mission to the United Nations said many other measures drawn up by Western nations may be dropped.

These included French proposals for sanctions against third states caught trading with Iraq and U.S. suggestions to "arrest" ships that circumvent the sanctions passed by the council on Aug. 6 to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

The five permanent members of the council have also discussed the possibility of a ban on foreign dredgers and other service companies working in Iraq.

Fateh, Hamas enter truce

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Two rival Palestinian factions, Fateh and the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas movement, announced Wednesday that they had ended their feud and will coordinate their efforts in fighting Israel.

The agreement, announced in a leaflet circulated here, came 10 days after supporters of the two factions clashed on the streets of the Tulkarem refugee camp. At least 20 people were injured in the battles.

The fighting in the Tulkarem camp was sparked when supporters of Fateh, the mainstream group of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) reportedly blocked a Hamas preacher from speaking at a local mosque.

The leaflet distributed by the Fateh and Hamas factions called on supporters to end their rivalry and improve relations.

"We announce an official decision to all our strike forces to stop fighting, to organise uprising activities together and to coordinate efforts in confronting the enemy and its forces," the leaflet said.

"We believe that national unity is the way to victory."

The truce marked at least the third time the rival factions have tried to end infighting since the Palestinian uprising began in December 1987.

Iraq will destroy all oil fields in Gulf if attacked — Jassem

BAGHDAD (J.T.) — In the event of an aggression on Iraq, the Iraqi armed forces will destroy all oil fields in the Gulf region and not a single oil well will be spared, according to Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Latif Nuseif Jassem.

"Iraq has the right to use all weapons under its disposal if Iraqi territory is exposed to an aggression," said the minister at a meeting with a visiting delegation representing Jordanian journalists.

Jassem said Iraq "takes pride in its relations with Jordan, which has been supporting the Iraqi people vis-a-vis various issues."

"Iraq's strategic objective is the liberation of Palestine from Israeli occupation," he said.

The Minister suggested that the Jordanian delegation, which arrived in Baghdad Tuesday on a week-long visit, should tour various information services and the press in Iraq, and to exchange views and hold dialogues with their Iraqi counterparts on various common issues.

Al Ra'i columnist Fahd Al Fanek replied with a speech expressing the delegation's appreciation of Iraq's endeavours and thanking the Iraqi government for the hospitality accorded to the delegation members.

Kuwaiti resistance a nuisance not a threat to Iraqis

BAGHDAD (R) — Kuwaiti resistance fighters are targeting Iraqi officers and water supplies but Western military experts say their campaign has little more than nuisance value.

The Baghdad-based experts, piecing together fragmentary reports from travellers and foreign missions still operating in Kuwait, portray the Kuwaiti resistance as a force which lacks organisation, cohesion and military skills.

Numbering dozens rather than hundreds, the Kuwaiti guerrillas have begun in recent days to target officers and tanker trucks carrying water for troops camped outside Kuwait City, where there

are no alternative sources of water.

Formed hastily after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, resistance groups are thought to include members of the small Kuwaiti defence force sent fleeing by the onslaught of more than 100,000 Iraqi troops and hundreds of tanks.

Others are young men with little or no military experience and only a small number have had basic guerrilla warfare training in camps in Saudi Arabia, where instructions are reported to include U.S. special operations

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U.S. lawmakers slam Bush for 'soft' policy on Iraq

WASHINGTON (R) — Members of Congress Tuesday made the most severe criticism so far of President George Bush's handling of the Gulf crisis, saying U.S. policy had been based on appeasing Iraq days before it invaded Kuwait.

Breaking ranks with Bush is significant numbers for the first time since the crisis began, members of a key House of Representatives subcommittee lashed out at Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly when he appeared before them to discuss the Gulf. "Administration policy was based on fiction and fantasy... that policy was an abysmal failure," said Neil Levine, a Democratic congressman and several house members to echo the same sentiment.

They also pledged to oppose a \$21 billion U.S. arms package for

Saudi Arabia, saying the sophisticated weaponry would threaten Israel and destabilise the Middle East.

The members accused the administration of trying to sneak the biggest arms deal in history through the Congress in the last few weeks before its recess.

Up until now Bush has received wide praise for his handling of the biggest foreign policy crisis of his presidency, persuading most nations to join in the trade embargo against Iraq and sending about 140,000 troops and more than 70 warships to the region to pressure Baghdad.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens, in talks with Defence Secretary Dick Cheney Monday, pressed for more arms from Washington, saying the Saudi deal could upset the military balance in the area.

The Pentagon, meanwhile, said Iraqi troops in and near Kuwait have swollen from 265,000 to 360,000 in recent days but the force still appears to be in a defensive posture.

Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams declined to say how many of the 360,000 troops were actually in Kuwait. But he said Iraq also had 2,800 tanks in or near Kuwait, 500 more than previously noted.

"Iraq continues to improve its defences... generally rounding out their units" in Kuwait, Williams said. "This has happened over the course of several days... it is not a sudden surge."

Bush, on a political trip to the western United States, told a crowd at a fund-raiser that he intended to keep the pressure on Iraq by enforcing a world trade embargo against Baghdad and "prove to (Iraq) that aggression does not pay." He insisted that any humanitarian food or medical supplies for Iraq would have to be distributed under international supervision to insure Iraq's army does not divert it.

The most damning evidence of what some critics are openly describing as "appeasement" is a transcript released by Iraq of a July 25 meeting in Baghdad between Saddam Hussein and the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, April Glaspie.

In the transcript, Glaspie stressed that Washington wanted better relations with Iraq even as Saddam was making "aggressive" comments and appeared to threaten the United States with guerrilla attacks if it supported Kuwait in its dispute with Baghdad.

Under repeated questioning, the State Department has not challenged the authenticity of the transcript and has refused to comment on its contents.

Larry Smith, a Democratic congressman, said: "There is a significant lack of judgment that has been prescriptive on policy decisions that have been made in the last few months."

Arens returns from U.S. with weapons but no aid

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens returned from the United States Wednesday with a Jewish new year "gift" of advanced weapons but without agreement on extra military aid.

Israeli newspapers and radio said U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney agreed to provide Israel with 15 F-15 fighters, two Patriot missile batteries, and 10 CH-53 cargo helicopters to help offset planned arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

"We are generally satisfied with the results of our mission to the United States but there is still work to be done," Arens told reporters at Ben-Gurion airport. He would not comment on details of the arms package or aid request.

"It will still take some time before we can expect a decision on Israel's additional military aid requests," he said.

Israeli media said Arens sought \$1 billion in emergency assistance

and \$500 million in extra military grants. The request stunned Washington but U.S. officials did not reject it outright.

Israel, Washington's traditional Middle East ally, already receives \$1.8 billion in annual military grants, more than any other country.

Arens gave Washington an arms "wish list" Monday after voicing alarm over Washington's proposed \$20 billion weapons sale to Saudi Arabia.

Military sources said the F-15s would be in addition to those Israel had already ordered and that the deal for the Patriots was apparently finalised after months of negotiations.

U.S. Ambassador to Israel William Brown said last week that Israel would receive the 10 extra cargo helicopters.

Brown also said Washington would send Israel 18 tank-killing Apache helicopters, up to 60 F-16C and F-16D fighter planes, and possibly Stinger missiles.

Pakistan ponders Saudi call for more troops, wider role

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan, looking for opportunities to increase its standing in the Gulf, is considering a request from Saudi Arabia to send an armoured brigade.

About 2,000 Pakistani infantrymen have already been sent to join the multinational force and another 3,000 are due to join them soon.

No formal request has been made for Pakistani armoured warfare specialists, but a senior government official said Riyadh had indicated it would like an extra armoured brigade.

"One way would be for the armour to come from the Saudis. They have access to Western arms which our people are familiar with," he said.

Until 1987, Pakistan had an armoured brigade of about 1,500 men stationed in Saudi Arabia without their equipment, which is both difficult to transport and

needed at home.

They were part of a 15,000-strong combat force on contract to Saudi Arabia. That lucrative deal broke down when Riyadh insisted on Shi'ite Muslim officers being sent home and demanded a commitment that Pakistanis would fight in any war against Iran.

Although Pakistan still has military advisers in Saudi Arabia and most other Gulf states, that episode marked a downturn in its influence in the region — influence which the present crisis could help restore.

Strapped for cash and badly hit by the rise in oil prices, Pakistan jumped at the chance to show solidarity with the wealthy oil kingdoms of the Gulf after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

"We were honour-bound to help a brother country but as a result of that we could gain from

this," the official said. "I think the Gulf countries will see that Pakistan is a credible and dependable friend."

Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi was asked for more advisers to help train armed forces in the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain when he toured the Gulf last week.

But government sources said he could not agree to a Saudi request for naval forces to join the international blockade against Iraq because Pakistan's tiny navy was fully committed.

Pakistan would like to use its good relations with both Iran and Saudi Arabia to resolve long-standing acrimony between the two countries over Riyadh's backing for Iraq in the Iran-Iraq war and its fear that Tehran would try to spread its Muslim fundamentalist revolution across the Gulf.

U.S. about to pay \$200m in Iran claim

THE HAGUE (AP) — The United States is about to pay a \$200 million Tehran claim for money left over from its post-revolutionary payments on undelivered American weaponry, Western diplomats here said Tuesday.

The money is in a trust fund set up for Iran and maintained by the U.S. Department of Defence to pay for the military equipment.

The trust fund claim is part of the foreign military sales (FMS) claim, the largest being arbitrated here by the Iran-United States claims tribunal.

The diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said settlement of the claim was imminent.

Iran has set the total FMS claim at \$11 billion, a figure the U.S. government disputes as inflated.

Also close to settlement is Iran's compensation claim for weaponry sent for repairs, but impounded by the U.S. government in the wake of the 1979 U.S. embassy seizure in Tehran by militants.

Once the trust fund case is settled, the \$200 million will be deposited in the so-called security account from which money is paid out to American claimants at the tribunal.

The nine-year-old tribunal is charged with arbitrating all commercial and government-to-government claims between the two nations arising out of the 1979 Iranian revolution, and the ensuing expropriations and broken contracts.

Transfer of the residue in the FMS trust fund has been a focus of nine months of negotiations here between American and Iranian officials, even though other portions of the 1,200-case FMS claim are far from settlement.

"Even if all the FMS claims were resolved, even the United States admits that there is going to be some money left over in the fund, and Iran should have that money now," said one of the diplomats.

The sources would not give a time frame for settlement of the military equipment compensation case, nor put a dollar amount on it.

Waldegrave: Iran should join regional grouping

ABU DHABI (R) — Iran should be drawn into a new regional security arrangement once the Gulf crisis is resolved, British Foreign Minister William Waldegrave was quoted as saying Wednesday.

"The best end to the crisis is that the Iraqi regime become less inclined to war and a regional security structure is set up under the Arab League umbrella," Waldegrave said in an interview with the Arabic-language daily Al Khaleej.

"Iran should participate in this alliance so a strong balance will emerge and foreign forces pull out. That's what we prefer to do," Waldegrave said.

Iran has joined the West in condemning Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait but has denounced the U.S.-led military buildup against Baghdad, saying the security of the Gulf should left to the regional countries.

None of the foreign powers which had sent forces to the Gulf had an interest in maintaining a

permanent military presence there, Al Khaleej quoted Waldegrave as saying.

"We need good ties with the Arab people and certainly the Iranians," he said.

Both Tehran and London have indicated they want to normalise ties, cut by Iran in the uproar over the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's death order against British author Salman Rushdie for blaspheming Muslims in his book "The Satanic Verses."

Waldegrave said war against Iraq was not inevitable but any military solution had to be initiated by Saudi Arabia where most of the international task force has been deployed.

"Above all, Saudi Arabia... should have a crucial role in the decision on any action from its territory," he said.

Egypt, Morocco, Syria, Pakistan and Bangladesh have sent troops to Saudi Arabia to join U.S. and other Western forces, invited to help defend regional states against Iraq.

Levy sees 'friendlier' Israel-Europe relations

LOD (AP) — Foreign Minister David Levy indicated Tuesday that Israel had made an unexpected diplomatic comeback in Western Europe whose leaders have toned down criticism of the Jewish state's handling of the Palestinian issue.

Levy, speaking after a trip to Brussels, said foreign ministers of the 12-member European Community (EC) had listened with a "substantive approach" to his requests for new trade agreements.

"Now the atmosphere is better. Our matters are more understood. All in all we return home satisfied from the talks," Levy told a news conference at Ben Gurion airport in Lod, a town near Tel Aviv.

Levy said the ministers showed "a readiness to respond to an honourable portion" of Israel's requests to continue a preferential trade status with the community after it unifies in 1992. "I am happy with the substantive approach," Levy added.

Israel is particularly looking to protect the lucrativeness of agricultural and industrial exports to Europe at a time when maintaining these enterprises is crucial to absorbing a huge influx of Soviet

immigrants.

"I am also happy the discussions went without tensions and threats of sanctions or steps against Israel as many had expected, but the opposite," Levy said of his three days of meetings.

European nations have formerly been outspokenly critical of Israel's handling of the 34-month Palestinian uprising and have frequently threatened trade sanctions against the Jewish state.

Levy indicated he had also expected to bear requests to send an envoy to monitor actions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"There was a suspicion that this issue would be at the centre of our arguments between us... I can say that this topic was not even brought up in our talks, and I am happy about this," he said.

Levy claimed the warmer relations with Europe were the result of intense Israeli diplomatic efforts in recent months.

The rapprochement also comes amid a six-week Gulf crisis and marked decline in pricing casualties, both of which have enhanced Israel's image and taken the spotlight off the Palestinians.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Ex-CIA agent guilty on tax charges

WASHINGTON (R) — A former agent of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) who helped arrange covert arms sales in the Iran-contra scandal that rocked Ronald Reagan's presidency, was found guilty Tuesday of failing to pay income taxes on his share of the profits, authorities said. A spokesman for the office of a special prosecutor set up to continue investigation into the affair said Thomas Clines was found guilty on four tax charges by a jury in Baltimore. Clines, a business partner in the Iran-contra arms supply operation known as "The Enterprise," will be sentenced on Oct. 31. He faces up to 16 years in prison and a million-dollar fine.

Sheikh Jaber to address U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The toppled emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, driven into exile in Saudi Arabia by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion, will address the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 27, a U.N. source said Tuesday. Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz is scheduled to speak in the 160-nation assembly Oct. 1.

Iranian captain found guilty of oil spill

SYDNEY (R) — The captain of an Iranian wheat carrier has been found guilty of causing an oil spill which blackened several of Sydney's famous Golden Beaches in March this year, court officials said Wednesday. Khalid Ahmad, captain of the vessel Iran Afzal, was fined 40,000 dollars (\$23,200) and ordered to pay 5,000 dollars (\$4,150) in costs by the New South Wales land and environment court. The spill, which occurred during the transfer of oil between tanks on the vessel, stretched along five kilometres of Sydney's eastern coastline, coating the city's beaches — including Bondi beach — with thick brown sludge. Local councils spent hours sweeping the beaches clean but there was no reported damage to wildlife.

India sends ship to Iran ports

NEW DELHI (AP) — Two Indian ships have sailed from Bombay to pick up as many as 2,500 refugees from the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr. Foreign Ministry officials said Wednesday. It was the first time Indian citizens were being evacuated directly from Iraq rather than from refugee staging camps in Jordan, Dubai or other Mideast countries, the officials said. India has evacuated 48,575 of its nationals by air and sea since the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, in what officials describe as the largest operation of its kind since World War II. On Sunday, a cargo vessel loaded with 11,000 tonnes of relief supplies for Asian refugees left for Umm Qasr, just inside the Iraqi border and 75 kilometres north of Kuwait City. The passenger ships Akbar and Tipu Sultan, with a combined capacity of 2,500, left Bombay Tuesday night for the six-day voyage. Two doctors and medical supplies also were on board, the officials said.

Saudi foreign minister in China

BEIJING (R) — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal arrived in China Wednesday after a visit to Moscow where he said he would welcome Soviet troops in Saudi Arabia as part of an international force to confront Iraq. The official New China News Agency said Prince Saud was on a working visit and was met at Beijing airport by Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang. Officials said he would meet President Yang Shangkun on Thursday. No other details were disclosed. China and Saudi Arabia established diplomatic relations just two months ago after Riyadh switched recognition from nationalist Taiwan. Diplomats said Prince Saud would press China as one of five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to lend its full support to U.N. sanctions against Iraq. Before the Gulf crisis, China expressed its willingness in principle to assist U.N. peacekeeping forces. It was not known whether Prince Saud would match his Moscow initiative by inviting Chinese troops to Saudi territory. While backing U.N. sanctions against Iraq, China has voiced opposition to "big power" involvement in the region.

Western families to leave Kuwait

BAGHDAD (R) — More Western women and children were expected to fly out of Kuwait Wednesday and on to London in the evening after a stop in Baghdad, British embassy sources said. Passengers on the Iraqi Airways Boeing 747 will be mostly Americans plus "a few Britons." The numbers were unknown but the 440-seat plane will not be full, the sources said. Other Western families will join the flight in Baghdad. More than 1,500 Western and Japanese women and children have left Iraq and Kuwait since President Saddam Hussein told them on Aug. 24 they were free to go. Their menfolk are not allowed to leave. Many are kept at military bases or industrial sites to deter attack during the crisis over Kuwait. Japanese diplomats said Wednesday they were hoping Iraq would let 10 ill or elderly Japanese men leave the country. Antonio Inoki, a popular wrestler-turned politician, arrived in Iraq Tuesday to discuss the fate of about 140 Japanese men held at likely targets, another 180 Japanese in Iraq and about 20 in Kuwait.

Two American, Dutch ships enter Suez Canal

SUEZ (AP) — An American cargo ship and a Dutch vessel chartered by the U.S. navy and carrying four American minesweepers entered the Suez Canal Wednesday headed for the Gulf, a canal official said. The official said the Cape Isabel, a U.S. cargo ferry, and the Dutch Super Servant 3 were in the regular southbound convoy through the canal. In Ijmuiden, Holland, Erik van Oosten, a spokesman for the Wijnmuller Salvaging and Towing Company, said the Super Servant 3 was a semi-submersible heavy-lift vessel en route with U.S. navy cargo from the East Coast

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

18:00... Koran
18:15... Children programme
18:30... Religious programme
18:45... Friday's prayer
19:00... Sports programme
19:15... Religious seminar
19:30... Feature film
19:45... News summary
19:55... Local programme
20:00... Programme review
20:15... News in Arabic
20:30... Local programme
20:45... News in Arabic
21:00... Local programme
21:15... News in Arabic
21:30... News summary in Arabic
21:45... Programme coord.

PROGRAMME TWO

17:25... French film
19:00... News in French
19:15... Documentary
19:30... News in Arabic
19:45... News in Arabic
20:00... Midnight Caller
20:15... News in English
20:30... Tassaners

PRAYER TIMES

05:01... Fajr
06:18... (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:29... Dhuhr
15:08... Asr
18:41... Maghrib
19:53... Isha

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30... Koran
15:45... Programme review
15:55... Children programme
16:10... Book of Adventure
16:25... News summary
16:40... Local programme
16:55... Programme review
17:10... News in Arabic
17:25... Local series
17:40... News in Arabic
17:55... Programme review
18:10... Local programme
18:25... News in Arabic
18:40... Local programme
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Jordan stands to lose at least \$200m in the tourism sector'

Gulf situation hits Jordanian tourism

AMMAN (J.T.) — Hard hit by the present situation in the Gulf and the fears of a war in the region, Jordan stands to lose at least \$200 million in the tourism sector in the last five months of 1990, Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabariti said Wednesday.

The tourism industry, which entails hotels, restaurants and transport facilities, was severely affected as well by distortion of facts by hostile circles about the situation in Jordan, the minister said at a meeting with representatives of the various tourist organisations and tour operators in Jordan.

"The Western media has played a negative role in distorting Jordan's image, resulting in the cancellation of most previously arranged tours and bookings to Jordan," the minister said.

In reviewing means of promoting the tourism industry and the tourist sector, Al Kabariti said that a special private sector committee had been formed to help find ways for offsetting the negative

effects of the crisis in Jordan.

"The Jordanian government is keen on supporting the tourism sector and to activate internal and external tourism, and it has made arrangements for contacts with a number of Western countries to lift a tourist ban that had been imposed on the Kingdom and to remove distortions that had marred Jordan's image abroad," the minister pointed out.

Earlier reports said that fears of a war in the Gulf and the continued massing of troops in Saudi Arabia had made most tour operators cancel bookings to Jordan, killing earlier hopes for a tourism boom.

The reports also said that tourism in Aqaba, which is mostly a winter resort, has slumped and the port was handling only one quarter of the usual business.

Tourists from Jordan and abroad, including Finnish groups, normally crowd the shores of Aqaba between October and April, but the present Gulf situation is seen by observers as "the cause of a major setback for the

tourism season this year."

In March this year Kabariti announced the formation of a Tourism Development Council to focus on the private sector in activating the tourism industry in Jordan.

The council, grouping owners and managers of hotels and travel and tourism agents as well as Royal Jordanian (RJ) was set to draw contributions from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to finance its activities. So far nothing has been reported about these activities.

Meanwhile Ministry of Tourism sources revealed that 631,531 tourists of different nationalities had visited Jordan in 1989 and the total estimated revenues from tourism exceeded JD 314 million.

Quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the sources said that the ministry expected 842,000 tourists to come to Jordan during 1990, despite the current crisis, and revenues to amount to JD 425 million.

PLO leader leaves after talks with Crown Prince

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday held talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on the Gulf crisis and Arab efforts being made to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Later Arafat left Jordan, ending a two-day visit to the Kingdom. He was seen off at the airport by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs

Abdul Baqi Jammo, Minister of Culture Khaled Al Karaki and the Palestinian Ambassador in Amman Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim.

Arafat's visit to Jordan followed a visit to Iraq during which he met Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. After talks with Saddam Hussein Arafat expressed optimism over reaching a peaceful settlement for the crisis in the Gulf.

Jordan, Iraq reach accord on pastures, wildlife zones

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Iraq have agreed to set up joint pastures at the Hammad basin, a semi-desert region divided among Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Syria near their common borders, and to extend periods allowed for grazing to encourage stockbreeders boost their production.

The agreement was reached in talks held in Baghdad by teams from the two countries which decided to form technical sub-committees to meet periodically for an exchange of information and expertise related to the pastures and wildlife zones.

Dr. Mohammad Shakhateh, director of the Hammad basin project, led the Jordanian team to the Baghdad talks which ended Tuesday evening.

He said that the joint scheme was designed to increase pasture lands and consequently boost the livestock wealth of Iraq and Jordan.

"Stockbreeders will be allowed six months, not three, to take their sheep for grazing in the pasture lands to be created under the new plan, and animals will be allowed to wander for grazing

into the Jordanian and Iraqi territory included in the scheme," Shakhateh added.

The border post of Ruweished lies within the Jordanian zone of the Hammad basin, and the Jordanian government has been carrying out different development projects like dams, schools and drilling artesian wells with a view to developing the region whose inhabitants live mostly on farming and sheep breeding.

According to Shakhateh, Jordan and Iraq are bound by a 1984 agreement which provides for mutual exploitation of land and water resources at the common border areas.

The Ministry of Agriculture, which is in charge of developing the region, last May signed agreements with local Jordanian firms, worth more than JD 500,000, to carry out development schemes to be implemented in Ruweished region.

Shakhateh said that Jordanian firms had already drilled more than six artesian wells for the benefit of the local population and their animals.

World Food Programme provides additional food aid

AMMAN (J.T.) — In response to the request of the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the appeal of the United Nations Disaster Relief Office to the international community to provide additional emergency food aid for the evacuees, and upon recommendation by the World Food Programme (WFP) executive director, James Ingram, U.N. World Food Programme will provide additional emergency food aid. The quantities of food are based on 12,000 evacuees per day for ninety days plus one month supplies as contingency/buffer stock to meet any unexpected large flow of the evacuees.

The total cost of the initial amount of food assistance since the start of the arrival of the evacuees in Jordan plus the additional new amount is about \$4.4 million. It comprises, 4320 tonnes of wheat flour, 4320 tonnes of rice, 432 tonnes of vegetable oil, 216 tonnes of lentils, 216 tonnes of canned fish, 216 tonnes of canned cheese and 108 tonnes of sugar and includes the cost of external

superintendence and ocean freight and internal transport, storage and handling.

The rapid influx of large numbers of evacuees since the second half of last August prompted the World Food Programme to take rapid measures to provide 900 tonnes of wheat flour, 50 tonnes of canned fish, 36 tonnes of sugar and 50 tonnes of vegetable oil, which were immediately released from the stocks of the WFP Highland Agricultural Regions development project. In addition it borrowed 900 tonnes of wheat flour and 50 tonnes of vegetable oil from the stocks of UNRWA in Jordan. All these quantities will be reimbursed to the lending sources as soon as the vessels carrying the above consignments arrive at Aqaba. The programme also airlifted 950 tonnes of rice, 96 tonnes of canned fish and 50 tonnes of canned cheese.

108 tonnes of sugar and 60 tonnes of canned fish, 776 tonnes of rice and 369 tonnes of vegetable oil are also expected to arrive at Aqaba Port during this month and the remaining assistance will be arriving next month.

U.N. envoy pledges to pursue efforts to help Gulf evacuees

AMMAN (R) — U.N. envoy Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, who fears aid workers could be swamped if war breaks out in the Gulf, plans to visit Iran, Turkey and Syria soon to ensure they can cope with any fresh exodus of refugees.

A U.N. relief official said that Prince Sadruddin, who left Amman for Geneva on Wednesday, would also be working out the cost of any new relief effort during his tour which may also take him to Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

"He is planning to visit all countries which have an influx problem or a potential problem," said the official, who declined to be named. These would definitely include Turkey and Syria, which have both accepted tens of thousands of refugees fleeing Iraq and occupied Kuwait.

"He wants to make sure we

have enough tents, food and above all, transport and to put some price tags on this," he said. The International Organisation of Migration, organising an airlift out of Jordan, has taken options on future flights.

The prince also wants to go to Iraq, where between 250,000 and 300,000 refugees are waiting to leave, but Baghdad says he is not welcome.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has appealed to Iraq to reverse its stance but the official said nothing had been heard from Baghdad so far.

Prince Sadruddin had just spent three days touring refugee camps and talking to officials in Jordan, which has had to cope with half a million refugees, mostly Arabs and Asians, who fled after Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

As Jordan's refugee crisis eased, with many being flown to their countries of origin, a camp at the International Trade Fair grounds which once held over 20,000 refugees was closed.

Almost 11,000 refugees arrived on Tuesday through the Ruweished border crossing but 15,919 left Jordan.

At Azraq 1, a well-equipped camp in the desert northeast of Amman, 2,000 arrived on Tuesday while 2,800 left.

Mohammed Essaafi, a coordinator at the U.N. Disaster Relief Organisation, said new desert camps and increased capacity in existing ones were planned. Food, tents and blankets were being stockpiled in Cyprus.

Three U.S. military planes were due to fly tents and other supplies to Jordan this week and to fly out refugees.

80 factories ready for investors in Irbid

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Hassan Industrial City in Irbid, which has built on 42 dunums of land with facilities for more than 80 factories and other businesses, is now ready for investors and at least one factory has started operations, according to Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation Director Fayez Suheimat.

A biscuit factory employing 50 workers started production, with 25 per cent of it exported to Arab countries. A factory producing chemical detergents is expected to start production in the coming three months, with almost all the production going to foreign countries, particularly to the Soviet Union, Suheimat said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Wednesday.

Both the biscuit factory, which has a capital of JD 300,000, and the detergent plant, with a JD 700,000 capital, employ only Jordanian workers and engineers, Suheimat said.

He said that the two factories had charted plans to sell products worth JD 6 million in 1991, rising to JD 8 million in 1992.

"As all the basic infrastructure has been laid JIEC is now processing applications by investors to pave the way for their commencement of operations," Suheimat said.

"Investors can either rent factories or buy plots of land within the premises to set up factories, but the amount to be paid within Al Hassan Industrial City in Irbid is about 25 per cent less than that paid by investors for property at the Sahab Industrial City south east of Amman," Suheimat said.

He said that Irbid was chosen as the site for the new industrial city due to its important location near the main international routes linking Jordan with Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia and because it lies near major towns like Mafraq and Ramtha in the north and east.

With reference to the infrastructure within the industrial city, Suheimat said that the project had been provided with networks of water, roads, a sewerage system, waste water treatment plant, electricity, telephone, a civil defence centre, a police station and banks.

"In addition, the new industrial city has an employment office, run by the Ministry of Labour, a Vocational Training Centre, and most important, a permanent exhibition to display samples of various industries," Suheimat said.

He said that investors buying plots of land within the site were allowed to spread their payments over five years and could benefit from the infrastructure and all the incentives and privileges offered by the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Economist urges compensations for sanctions losses

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is totally committed to the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on trade and dealings with Iraq, and is losing hundreds of millions of dinars as a result, but the Kingdom hopes that the Arab Gulf countries will understand Jordan's difficult situation and, together with the world community, will provide compensation to the country, Jordanian economist Jawad Al Anani said in a television programme presented Wednesday.

Jordan, he said, is losing trade since it will no more export anything to Iraq or Kuwait as long as the sanctions last, and is now losing money remittances from Jordanians working in Kuwait.

According to Anani, Jordan's services to Kuwait and Iraq in 1988 amounted to JD 300 million, rising to JD 380 million in 1989 and could have reached JD 400 million according to estimates.

In 1988 Jordan exported goods to Iraq and Kuwait worth JD 74 million, rising to JD 140 million in 1989 and was expected to reach JD 280 million during this year.

In addition to that, Jordan is now deprived of nearly JD 400 million in money transfers from Jordanian expatriates working in Kuwait and the Gulf region, Anani said.

"The sanctions imposed on Iraq are adversely affecting Jordan's trade with other countries, since all ships carrying goods to Jordan are either turned away to unload at other ports or searched thoroughly or turned away completely, Anani added.

He said that Jordan had 8,000 lorries worth JD 250 million, 40 per cent of which are now lying idle since most operations were conducted between Aqaba and Iraqi destinations.

"In addition, 7,000 workers at Aqaba Port could be laid off as work at the port has been drastically reduced," Anani added. He said that Jordan is now rendered unable to compete with other countries exporting phosphate, potash, cement and fertilisers because of the additional cost of insurance on maritime transport.

Jordanians expelled from Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (R) — Saudi Arabia, angered by Amman's stance in the Gulf crisis, has expelled at least 50 Jordanians in the past three weeks, Jordanian officials said on Wednesday.

They said the Saudi officials had turned back 20 others at the border in the same period and verbally abused hundreds. Jordanian security and government said the Saudi moves were part of a pattern of retaliation by Gulf states angered by what they see as the pro-Iraqi stand of Jordan and the PLO.

They said Qatar had expelled dozens of Jordanians of Palestinian origin and banned Jordanian passport-holders from renewing work and residence permits.

The United Arab Emirates has tightened residence regulations for Palestinians and Jordanians and Egypt has imposed entry restrictions on Palestinians with Jordanian passports, the officials said.

The measures have worried officials in Jordan, already struggling to cope with its own people fleeing Kuwait as well as a flood of Asian and Arab refugees.

Returning Jordanians, often penniless, are putting added pressure on water and food stocks and competing for jobs while unemployment is soaring. The loss of remittances is swelling the huge balance of payments deficit.

Jordan opposes both Bagh-

dad's annexation of Kuwait and the deployment of foreign troops in Saudi Arabia to protect it against any attack.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has won strong grassroots support in Jordan for being seen to stand up to the West. The downfall of Kuwait's ruling family has won little sympathy among Jordanians and Palestinians who complained they were treated as second-class citizens there.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran told Al Ra'i newspaper that at least 100,000 Jordanians had fled Kuwait since Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion. Some 27,000 evacuees' children registered in Jordanian schools over the past five days. Hundreds of thousands of Jordanians, many of Palestinian origin, work in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Gulf states.

While Gulf states are turning Jordanians away, Iraq apparently wants them to come back to Kuwait.

A border officer said on Wednesday that Iraq had begun issuing visas to Jordanians who left Kuwait after Aug. 23, despite saying earlier that foreigners who departed after that date could not return.

"As of yesterday, they began giving visas to Jordanian teachers and all (Jordanian) employees whom they badly need in Kuwait," he said.

Charitable societies discuss coordination

AMMAN (Petra) — Heads of charitable societies operating within the Amman region held a general meeting Wednesday to review coordination among these societies in providing assistance to needy groups in Jordan under the present difficult circumstances.

The meeting was chaired by Fakhri Bilbeisi, head of the societies' union in the Amman area, who said in a statement later that the meeting had discussed the formation of specialised committees to supervise activities related to the provision of assistance in cooperating with the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

The charitable societies, he

said, will be providing food and clothes and will also try to find homes for homeless people.

"Working under the supervision of specialised committees these societies, which group 30,000 volunteers, will take part in first aid and rescue operations in times of war, will help in nursing the wounded and in securing means of transport for the doctors and supervise the storing of food and medical supplies in warehouses for later use," he added.

Bilbeisi said the meeting had decided to set up an operation's room for the societies' activities in Amman.

According to Bilbeisi, there are 176 charitable societies operating in the Amman region.

U.N. asks world to send the money it promised for refugees

GENEVA (R) — A United Nations disaster official said on Wednesday the organisation was ready to cope with a fresh wave of refugees from the Gulf, but urged donor countries to send all the money they had promised.

Mohammad Essaafi, a coordinator at the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UN-DRO), told diplomats discussing the refugee problem at the U.N.'s European headquarters in Geneva that international relief efforts had succeeded so far.

"But we face a liquidity problem since only a portion of the money pledged has been received," he added.

Robert Souria, another senior UN-DRO official, said \$248 million had been pledged by a number of countries, including \$101 million for Jordan.

But few, notably Japan, had actually sent the money.

Essaafi asked donor countries

to help Jordan replenish food stocks seriously depleted by a first wave of refugees.

"Jordan's economy has suffered enormously and needs help," he said.

Jordan's envoy to Geneva told diplomats, U.N. officials and representatives of non-governmental organisations at the meeting that his government had spent \$40 million to cope with the initial influx before international help arrived.

He was grateful for help already received but said a second wave of refugees was likely and planning was vital.

Nearly 400,000 foreigners, most of them Asians or Arabs, have made it home since Iraq took over Kuwait on Aug. 2.

But Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the U.N.'s humanitarian envoy in the crisis, said last week more than two million more people might be waiting to leave Iraq

W. Germany contributes additional relief aid

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Federal Republic of Germany decided to contribute an additional amount of \$3.1 million to the UN-DRO/IOM operations in Jordan. This amount shall support the relief flights organised by UN-DRO in cooperation with IOM aimed at transporting Asian citizens coming from the Gulf region back to their home countries.

A part of the amount, a total of \$1.7 million, was made available by the German government for the repatriation of evacuees from the Gulf region. This amount encompasses food aid, air shuttle Amman-Cairo (29 flights, 4,900 passengers) and cash aid for immediate relief to be granted to various non-governmental organisations.

The German Red Cross has delivered a \$380,000 aid. About 15 staff members of the German Red Cross are currently working in Jordan, most of them in the camp of the International Red Cross in Azraq.

It may be noted that the total German contribution in support of Jordan's humanitarian efforts of handling the evacuees problem, amounts to \$4.8 million. In case of a further increase in the number of refugees coming through Jordan the Federal Republic of Germany is considering additional aid.

Kuwait

(Continued from page 1)

experts. "Kuwaiti snipers are singling out Iraqi officers and supply vehicles, particularly water trucks," one military attaché said. "In a number of recent incidents anti-Iraqi saboteurs have rolled hand grenades under the trucks to pierce their skin and drain their water."

Water supplies would be critical if it war erupted in the Gulf between Iraqi forces reported to number more than 360,000

WHAT'S GOING ON

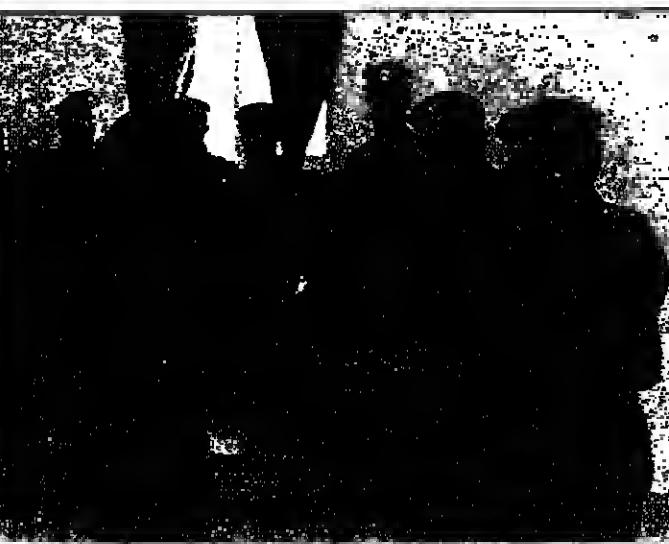
The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rasmehal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- * Art exhibition by Mohammed Nasrallah at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Department of Antiquities' Registration and Research Centre, Jabal Amman.

FILM

- * Feature film entitled "The Man who Shot Liberty Valance" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.



PEOPLE'S ARMY GRADUATION: The total number of citizens in the Madaba district, south of Amman, who acquired training on civil defence skills has now reached 1,000, according to the acting district governor in Madaba. He said that all members of the public are called on to register for training at the civil defence centres within the district. In Tafleh the commander

of the People's Army Wednesday attended the graduation of a new batch of recruits and in Salt a new batch of People's Army recruits graduated at a ceremony attended by senior army officers. The recruits received their diplomas from the area commander.

Jordan Times

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Old habits die hard

WHEN FORMER U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was making one of his rounds in the Middle East before he retired, he came to Jordan with a thick file. His dossier contained press clippings in which Jordanian columnists and writers, mainly from the Jordan Times, had heavily criticised U.S. policies in the area, invariably accusing the Reagan administration of bias towards Israel in its handling of the Palestinian problem.

Shultz, being the great democrat he is (actually Shultz is a Republican who has called for legalising the use of drugs in the U.S.), at the time thought or conveyed the impression that the government of Jordan was behind or responsible for the criticism by the Jordanian press of American positions on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The government in office at the time, we are now told, tried in vain to convince the secretary of state that what the columnists wrote was their opinion and that Jordan was more than willing and ready to accept U.S. leadership in the quest for peace in the Middle East.

In those days, Jordan was not exactly a democracy and various governments did have their daily problems with the media, but especially the daily newspapers which have mainly been independently owned and operated. Those governments did often try to exert control on the press, but it was always a tug-of-war between the authorities and the journalists.

The picture has changed considerably since last November, when free and democratic parliamentary elections were held for the first time in decades. But convincing people that Jordan's four dailies are truly independent remains a difficult problem.

We, in the Jordan Times, resent it when fellow journalists, especially international colleagues, describe us as a government mouthpiece. It is true that all of us care deeply for the interests and well-being of the state, but it is equally true that we are no more influenced by our government than most if not all world journalists are influenced by their own governments.

The issue here is not so much us. We have learned to take in criticism as it comes. The problem lies with those who will not accept that Jordan is serious about its democracy taking hold in our society at all levels.

Take for example what two American officials said on Monday. Assistant Secretary of State for the Middle East John Kelly and State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler both lashed out at Jordan for hosting the pan-Arab peoples conference that ended in Amman on Monday.

Calling the meeting "radical" and describing delegates as representatives of "terrorist" groups, the two officials were insinuating that the government of Jordan was responsible for and should have nuzzled whatever the participants had to say.

Forgotten, ignored or overlooked in the American bargain is the fact that the conference was called and organised not by Jordan but by an alliance of political groups in the Kingdom. And then whoever said what at the meeting is not Jordan's responsibility, for everybody is responsible for what he or she says and everyone has the freedom to speak. Thirdly, instead of blasting Jordan for what the Americans had heard from a conference held here, U.S. officials would do a better job if they devoted more time and effort to understanding and assessing the true sentiments and feelings of the Arab masses whom the delegates represented and reflected in their three-day meeting in Amman.

To the Americans, old habits seem to die hard. That should pose no problem to us, except that what they are talking about there involves us, and it is nonsense. Incidentally, this is not Jordan's response to the State Department's dismay with the Kingdom's hosting of the "radical" conference. If anyone needs a reminder, this is the Jordan Times' editorial for Thursday, Sept. 20, 1990.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

U.S. Air Commander General Michael Dugan has been dismissed from his post for disclosing details about a massive American air strike on Baghdad when war breaks out, said Al Ra'i daily Wednesday. But the American general's views simply reflect ideas of scores of other American generals who are indignant to see Washington reluctant to launch attack, the paper said. Of course the Iraqis are not sitting idle, and the residents of the Iraqi capital do not expect U.S. war planes to bring them roses, since they realise that it is the Iraqi military might which the U.S.-Western alliance wants to target in the event of war, the paper continued. Those who have been urging Washington to opt for a military action in the Gulf, including the big and the small allies, can only be satisfied when they see Iraq's military power destroyed for good and the American hegemony imposed on the Arab nation, said the paper. These allies see in the talk about a political settlement as a means of dashing away their hopes, and therefore, they tend to oppose such ideas and continue to urge Washington to take military action, the paper added. But it said that should the United States start a war on Iraq, the millions of Arabs and Muslims will seize this opportunity to settle old scores with the West and with the enemies of the Arab nation.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily thanks the Ministry of Health for openly announcing the discovery of three cases of cholera among the evacuees, thus reassuring the public that everything was under control. Salah Abdul Samad says that the announcement is bound to put an end to all rumours about the health situation in the evacuees camps, and to reassure everyone that the ministry's teams were doing all they can to prevent an outbreak of the disease through continuous inspections and medical treatment. The writer warns the members of the public against mixing with the evacuees because of the fear that they might be carrying cholera viruses and not as a way of discriminating against these people.

People would rather starve than accept humiliation

Iraqis feel impact of sanctions but vow never to bend

By Wafa Amr

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq is beginning to feel the impact of economic sanctions, but residents of the capital say they're determined to resist outside pressure.

Some businesses have closed, food prices have soared and goods are in short supply. But people rarely complain. Grumbling is frowned upon by the Iraqi government.

Bread, powdered milk, sugar, rice, macaroni, chicken and other food is available, but prices have skyrocketed since the United Nations imposed the trade sanctions Aug. 6.

The sanctions were imposed to force President Saddam Hussein to withdraw the troops he sent to Kuwait Aug. 2 to take over the oil-rich Gulf state.

"The west believes we will kneel to their will when they impose sanctions against us. But we have stored for all our needs," said Salwa Bayati, a mother of two who chatted

with neighbours over morning coffee last week. The coffee was served without sugar, which was in short supply even before the trade embargo.

Iraqi housewives commonly keep household food storerooms full and refrigerators stocked, a habit developed during the eight-year war with Iran.

The Iraqi government has closed down all fast-food restaurants and many pastry shops because they use large amounts of sugar. Those remaining open bake bread instead of sweets.

The women said more food was available during the war with Iran than now, but they still have hoarded up their shelves and refrigerators despite government warnings against hoarding.

The women said the last war and the current crisis have caused them to economise and learn from their hardships.

"Today's children are the war generation. They tolerate conditions, other children cannot," said Hana Sabah.

Elsewhere in Baghdad, life appears the same for the most part, if more difficult.

Throughout the city, people lined up in long queues outside bakery shops to get the daily ration of bread. Loaves are smaller in size and people have stopped eating white bread.

"We are out of bread today," said a waiter in one of Baghdad's fine restaurants. They were also out of rice. If a customer wanted tea or coffee, he drank it black.

In a Baghdad hospital, a doctor said some operations were being postponed and only emergency cases were treated because surgery thread, alcohol and other medical items are in short supply.

Tarik Al Sukuti, a leader of the accountants and auditors union, said Iraqi people support their president because they believe he is doing the right thing. He said Westerners don't understand the Arab mentality.

"Iraqi people would rather starve than accept humiliation," he said.

Fears that Kashmir will erupt into war ease

By Jacqueline Frank Reuter

WASHINGTON — India and Pakistan, dangerously close to war this summer, are entering a cooling-off phase that could keep their troops apart through the winter, according to U.S. officials and private foreign policy analysts.

More than 1,000 people have been killed this year in the northern Indian state of Kashmir, where Muslim insurgents are fighting for independence from Hindu-dominated India. India has charged Islamic Pakistan with arming and aiding the rebellion and has sent troops to the region.

But analysts say the tensions between Islamabad and New Delhi over Kashmir have eased as the two governments have become involved in their own internal political problems and in the Gulf crisis in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

"The possibility of an immi-

nent explosion appears to have receded, partly as a result of timely intervention by U.S. deputy National security adviser Robert Gates in Islamabad and subsequently by Soviet diplomats in New Delhi," said Selig Harrison of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a private think tank.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since gaining independence from Britain in 1947. Concern in Moscow and Washington that another war could erupt was deepened by fears that both India and Pakistan could have access to nuclear weapons.

Washington has traditionally had closer ties with Pakistan, while Moscow enjoys warm relations with India. The two superpowers both sought to have the Kashmiri problem resolved in talks involving the United Nations.

One U.S. official, who asked not to be named, said the presence of weak governments in

both India and Pakistan has helped lessen the threat of war. "I think we're seeing a lessening in tensions as both countries are distracted by other things," he said.

Pakistan is struggling to remark its government after the August 6 ouster of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the dissolution of the national assembly by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. New elections are to take place October 24.

The analysts also note that Pakistan has sent troops to the Gulf, making it not a good time to face India in action in Kashmir.

Although they say the threat of imminent war appears to have receded, the analysts see little chance of an early end to violence in Kashmir.

India has poured at least 25,000 paramilitary police into the Kashmir valley to quell the revolt by the Kashmiri separatists. Kashmiri Muslims accuse them of murder, rape and burning homes.

Peace efforts to solve Cambodia's civil war face more difficulties

By Kevin Cooney Reuter

BANGKOK — The acrimonious collapse of Cambodian peace talks here on Wednesday could seriously delay international efforts to rescue that beleaguered country from its decade of civil war.

Even as officials of the Phnom Penh government and the three guerrilla groups allied against it prepared their last accords, statements and Thai diplomats frantically tried to persuade them to issue a face-saving bland communiqué, the attention of delegates and diplomats shifted to Paris.

On Monday, the French government said it was willing, on short notice, to act as host for yet another major peace conference that would involve the superpowers, regional powers and the Cambodian belligerents.

"The only way to make progress is for the United Nations to come in," a senior Khmer Rouge official said. "The U.N. will get involved again at the Paris conference. The sooner we get to Paris the better."

But the failure of the four Cambodian factions to advance the cause of peace by an inch when they gathered to form a supreme national council has put the Paris talks in jeopardy, diplomats said.

"The French believed that this (Bangkok) meeting would provide at least some momentum that would carry over," a Western diplomatic specialist in Cambodian affairs said. "Instead, momentum has been lost."

"Some new element is going to have to be introduced. No way

are the French going to host a meeting that is doomed to fail."

"We have been quite willing to reconvene in Paris at any time," a French diplomat said. "But what has happened in Bangkok may well influence that position."

The Supreme National Council, agreed upon last week in Jakarta under pressure from the factional superpower sponsors, even failed to agree on how to seat Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the guerrilla alliance leader, as chairman.

Before the conference began all sides had agreed to give Sihanouk the job as head of the council, whose power is evenly divided between the Phnom Penh government and the guerrillas with six votes apiece.

On Monday as the conference opened, Hun Sen, the Phnom Penh prime minister, refused to give in to guerrilla demands that Sihanouk take a 13th seat. He wanted the alliance to give one of its seats to the former monarch.

The conference never really got any further. By Wednesday the hopes delegates had expressed for progress looked as battered as the newly-laid lawn around the abandoned Cambodian embassy which had been trampled on by a hundred journalists as they waited for a word of peace to come out of Monday's meeting.

Delegates from both sides had said they hoped the Supreme National Council would send a unified delegation to represent Cambodia at the United Nations General Assembly in New York. There was even talk of a ceasefire.

On Wednesday, Hun Sen said: "We could not produce any posi-

tive result because of Prince Sihanouk's political tactics."

Hun Sen's actions "can only be construed as an attempt to kill (the peace process)... and therefore to prolong the war in Cambodia," said the Khmer Rouge, whose reign of terror there from 1975 to 1979 brought on a Vietnamese invasion. The Vietnamese have backed the Phnom Penh government they installed ever since.

The formation of the Supreme National Council was a key element of what was called a last-chance peace plan proposed by the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

The plan called for the spending of billions of dollars and the dispatching of thousands of peacekeepers and administrators to Cambodia to lead the country into elections.

Now the superpowers may turn their back on the intractable Cambodians, diplomats say. "The United States has done its bit and Cambodia is not going to stand in the way of Sino-Soviet-U.S. relations," a Western diplomat said.

As part of its efforts to move the Cambodian peace process ahead the United States agreed to talk with its old enemy Vietnam and opened a dialogue with Phnom Penh.

Informal talks between Phnom Penh and U.S. diplomats continue in the Laotian capital Vientiane, a diplomat said.

China, which had been arming the Khmer Rouge, the most powerful of the guerrilla groups, and the Soviet Union, the main backer of Phnom Penh, agreed to stop sending arms into Cambodia.

U.S. crisis myopia: Oil or Israel

By Izzat Dajani

"IRAQ is a major power in the region. This power carries responsibility with it." These were not the words of an Iraqi, a Jordanian or any ally of Iraq. This was rather a statement made by John Kelly, assistant U.S. secretary of state to Congress on July 31, 1990. Barely 48 hours later, on August 2, the U.S. denounced Iraq as an irresponsible and its president as "public enemy" number one, like many of his predecessors that did not conform to American interests and policies.

The United States took the lead in massing international support against Iraq's takeover of Kuwait. It exerted full pressure to secure unanimous Security Council resolutions to impose a complete embargo on Iraq and freeze all Iraqi and Kuwaiti assets. It is worthy to note that the Soviet Union and China, supposedly "friends" of the Arabs, failed to even abstain from endorsing the Security Council resolutions. This confirms the asinine of the reliance by many Arab countries on the East bloc as eternal allies. President Saddam, in February 1990, warned his fellow Arabs that the power of the Soviet Union was fading, which would leave the United States as the only superpower in the world in general, and the Middle East in particular. "The Americans' main aim," Saddam insisted, "remains to keep Israel strong." This leads us to the Gulf crisis, its origins, and reasons behind escalating it.

It is completely understood and totally agreed upon and recognised that neither the oil-producing countries nor the industrial nations approve of extremely cheap oil, or favour overpriced one. Oil remains to be a commodity subject to the market forces of supply and demand. The abundance of oil at very low prices would encourage over-consumption by the world in general and the industrialised nations in particular of this irreplaceable source of energy. The oil reserves are defined and known, and it is the responsibility of the whole international community to conserve energy and not consume such reserves in a short-time.

Low prices will curtail efforts to invest in research, expensive by nature, to find alternate sources of energy and different methods of generating it. The industrialised world should not be encouraged, through cheap energy, to become indolent in finding ways to improve production efficiency so as to reduce oil consumption.

It is worthy to note here that the United States produced the same quantity of products in 1989 with one third less oil as it did in 1979. Japan's production over the same 10 year period showed better signs of manufacturing efficiency as the oil consumed was cut by 50 per cent for the same quantity of products. Furthermore, it is only just and fair to recognise that the oil-producing countries have the right to seek the best possible market price for their oil as it is in most cases, their only commodity. The petro-dollars are used to build their massive infrastructures and transfer technology. It is further interesting to note that much of these countries' earnings are fed back into the industrialised world's financial system.

Examining the other side of the coin, whereby oil is overpriced to prohibitive levels, market forces will then act and countries would be forced to curb their oil consumption. Hence, industrial production would fall to alarming levels leading to recession in the industrialised world. The oil-producing countries would be left with no choice but to accept the price of oil set by the industrialised world.

Still, the United States took it upon itself to remind the world of the "aggressor" Saddam, ignoring all other aggressors in the world. The U.S. came to realise that the global confrontation in the 1990's will no longer be between East and West, but between North and South, Rich and Poor, the Haves and the Have-nots, forcing the industrial nations to go in competition against the demanding well-armed nations and countries of the developing world. President Saddam Hussein spoke frequently of the unfair and unjust distribution of wealth in the Arab World. Due to colonial divisions and the im-

with oil they could not sell which would lead to the eventual result of their inability to build their infrastructures or to embark on their ambitious plans of transformation into recognisable economies in the world.

Iraq, an oil-producing nation, fits the criteria described above. The United States recognises that Iraq cannot demand an oil-price well above an internationally accepted market price. This phenomenon remains to hold true whether Iraq controls 9 per cent, 20 per cent or more of the world's recognised oil reserves. Iraq, as a nation and country, has embarked on an extremely ambitious plan of building its massive infrastructure, transferring technology into its various sectors, improving and diversifying its industries, building and maintaining its army and repaying its foreign debt in excess of \$80 billion. If Iraq did not sell its oil, due to unacceptable high market price, then Iraq would have to cease all its plans. The United States, Europe and Japan recognise this collectively. Yet they all chose because of U.S. Indispensable pressure, to adopt the futile attitude of voicing great concern over the potential Iraqi control of over 20 per cent of the oil reserves in the world. It may be also interesting to note that the industrialised world, including the U.S., should find it more rational to deal with "one solid reliable supplier than many weak and hasty ones!" The U.S. should have been thankful to Iraq for the latter's recognition of the value of oil and energy, and for bringing it to the attention of the whole world as a scarce commodity that should not be wasted. Despite of this many seem to still accept in this context, U.S. national security strategies that dictate that no one country should control such vital resources without being a satellite in the U.S. sphere of influence. Iraq obviously did not fit this pattern, while many others did.

Furthermore, there is increased evidence to counter the U.S. claim that it is acting against Iraq because of its national security being adversely affected by the Iraq's control of vast oil reserves. In 1973, and after the oil embargo by the Arab World, the price of oil shot up five folds. This resulted in very high inflation in the West, followed by recession which was greatly exacerbated in the hardest hit developing world. In 1979, the price of oil increased two folds. However, many economists predict that the price of oil would only increase by some percentage points following the current crisis in the Gulf. This is due to many reasons. Amongst them the main influences curbing such increases are the building of strategic oil reserves in addition to the regular oil inventory in the U.S. and the industrialised world. Such reserves can guarantee supplies within the countries for a few months, offsetting the immediate negative impact of any interruptions in oil production and supply.

Still, the United States took it upon itself to remind the world of the "aggressor" Saddam, ignoring all other aggressors in the world. The U.S. came to realise that the global confrontation in the 1990's will no longer be between East and West, but between North and South, Rich and Poor, the Haves and the Have-nots, forcing the industrial nations to go in competition against the demanding well-armed nations and countries of the developing world. President Saddam Hussein spoke frequently of the unfair and unjust distribution of wealth in the Arab World. Due to colonial divisions and the im-

position of "feudal" states, nearly 95 per cent of Arab wealth is controlled by 5 per cent of the population. Saddam spoke of establishing an Arab development fund financed by petrodollars from the rich Arab countries to help the poor majority to build its infrastructure and be able to implement projects of development across the Arab World. This of course fell on deaf ears! The great majority of the Arab entertained sceptical repugnance, whilst Arab money was deposited in the industrialised West.

So, what was truly behind the offensive attitude adopted by the U.S. against Iraq?

From the above, it appears that oil contributes only to part of this. The U.S. refuses to recognise or address the other part, though as important in dimension if not more in influencing the U.S. attitude and policy. Iraq, a country with vast oil reserves appears to be dominating the scene in the Arab World. It came out from an 8-year horrific war with Iran, as a powerful and determined country. Its army of one-million strong is the largest in the Middle East equipped with the most sophisticated military hardware. Iraq, probably the only Arab country, managed to understand the value of technology transfer in building its institutions and designing its future. While Iraq transferred technology, the rest of the Arab World seemed content to "import" it, and hence remained dependent on the countries responsible for such technology — modern era colonialists. Iraq spoke of the plight of the Palestinians and the injustice inflicted upon them by the occupying Israeli forces. Whilst most Arabs spoke against Israel, Saddam seemed the only one able to act and inflict true damage to Israel's security and possible image. He spoke of the West keeping a blind eye to Israeli transgression, and took it upon himself, and his country, to rectify matters in face of this "global silence". The U.S. was putting a veto on any resolution denouncing Israel, even if it were as trivial as sending a fact-finding mission to the occupied territories. To many Arabs, Saddam became the new Saladin who will free the Arab World from all that is unjust. This of course did not suit Israel, nor the Jewish lobby in the U.S!

It is left for the intelligent reader to draw his own conclusions on how the Jewish and Zionist lobby in the U.S. influenced the American administration, and Congress to challenge Iraq's Saddam in the name of oil, energy, democracy and safeguarding the "defenceless" small oil-state in the Gulf. It may be interesting to draw a map of the Middle East, and measure U.S. reaction to similar incidents in the Gulf, without any presence or influence by or against Israel. My amazement extends hitherto regarding the humiliating and blindfolded British and European response to the demands of the U.S. We are living in a shameful world!

Glen Fisher, a U.S. foreign service officer and adjunct professor at Georgetown University wrote in his book, International Negotiation, how Americans take joy in creating crisis when none existed, because they so enjoyed meeting them. To this American myopia, Arabs shall fight back with patience, defiance and solidarity. These are winning characteristics, crisis-driven Americans do not have. Time will unfold, however, that Israel remains to be the main crisis for America and the good many Americans.

Rabat summit seeks Arab formula

(Continued from page 1)

and Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and then present the proposal as a unified Arab effort to Iraq and Saudi Arabia, the government source said.

Ahmad Ben Souda, a special envoy of King Hassan, made a brief stopover in Amman Monday after talks with Saddam.

Morocco has sent troops to join the multinational forces in Saudi Arabia.

The source said the proposal would include the replacement of Iraqi troops in Kuwait by U.N. forces and deployment of Arab troops instead of foreign forces in Saudi Arabia.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran told the Jordan Times Tuesday that the King was keen on producing a "collective" plan on the Gulf.

King viewed a common ground envisaging an Arab solution that halts military escalation, (Iraq's) withdrawal from Kuwait, deploying Arab troops in Kuwait and linking the Gulf crisis with the Palestinian problem," Badran said.

"The King proposed no specific solutions should be submitted by any country until consensus had materialised so that a collective plan can be proposed," he added.

The Algerian News Agency APS reported that Benjedid received a message from Italian President Francesco Cossiga before flying to Rabat. Its contents were not disclosed.

Kuwait's toppled emiri government Wednesday rejected as a waste of time efforts by Arab leaders to resolve the Gulf crisis.

"Kuwait has not asked whether directly or indirectly any Arab or non-Arab official to undertake

initiatives or mediations in this respect, out of its conviction that such attempts will not work," the deposed crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said in a statement.

"Saddam Hussein is determined to challenge the will of the Arab and Muslim nation and the international community by continuing his aggression of Kuwait and occupying its land to satisfy his expansionist designs," said the statement carried by the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) and sent to Reuters in Cyprus.

"Those who volunteer to promote (Gulf peace) initiatives that are only a waste of time and effort and increase the disintegration of Arab ranks should remember that the real cause of the crisis is Saddam Hussein's aggression," Sheikh Saad was quoted as saying.

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New world opens to Soviet students

By Marc Aubert

Editor's Note: The writer is a 24-year-old student from Switzerland who is studying at New York University and recently participated in a three-week study tour organised by the University of Pennsylvania to promote contacts with Soviet students.

LENINGRAD, USSR — If the expectation run high in the Soviet Union with the promise of Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms, they may be highest among Soviet students.

The Soviet leader himself has proclaimed that a total restructuring of the educational system is vital for the success of perestroika, and the students are waiting. In the meantime many say they are disappointed by the slow pace of change. With their future at stake, some have begun to organise and put forward demands.

"Work, work, work" — Lenin's favourite motto that adorns the entrance of most educational buildings rings hollow as a sense of unrest pervades schools and universities. Some things have changed already. Until 1985 Communist indoctrination accounted for 17 per cent of the school curriculum, but since perestroika, the Marxist-Leninist doctrine has become obsolete. Worse still, old school books actually contradict the leadership's current liberalisation policy, which led the State Committee on Public Education, the highest education authority, to abolish the mandatory examination in world history.

A programme designed to present facts instead of doctrine was introduced. It gives students a new version of international and pre-revolutionary Russian history. "We want our students to undertake a comparative study (of history). We don't want any more dogmatic, parrot-fashion learning in praise of the party," declares Mikhail Sleptsov, deputy director of

students from Leningrad University were sent to California to improve their English. But fellow students complain of favouritism in the selection process to go abroad. "It wasn't fair. The two students weren't chosen for their academic performance, they were selected because their fathers are influential members of the party," says 24-year-old Vladimir Skoolko, who also studies English.

But, he adds: "This won't happen again. Now the students have a say in choosing who will be selected to study abroad." Skoolko is a representative of the Komsomol, the Communist Party's youth organisation.

Meanwhile, Soviet universities have begun to upgrade their facilities in order to receive the foreign students involved in the exchange programmes. Already, about 30 American students who are learning Russian completed the January-June semester at the linguistics department of Leningrad University.

Also in the works is a project launched by the State Committee for Public Education to encourage exchanges between Soviet and foreign university professors. Foreign specialists are being called upon to help in areas that until now had no place in the Soviet education system. For example, foreign academics will participate in the creation of a business school at Moscow University. Until recently, business textbooks were a rarity available only on the black market for a small fortune.

To most students these changes fall short of the promises for sweeping reform. Anxious to move ahead, about a year ago they set up a student council to present student demands to the authorities. One of the council's achievements

was to improve living conditions. Alex Konopelko, an English language student at Leningrad University, complains that his lodgings are run down and have neither hot water nor heating, but he has some cause for satisfaction: "At least we now have the right to choose our room-mates and we no longer have people imposed on us. Now I can finally share my room with my wife and my 9-year-old son," he says.

To marry as he did at 22 is not uncommon in the Soviet Union. Many students say that they need the companionship, trust and intimacy provided by marriage as an antidote to a restrictive society. On the minus side, married life often proves very difficult. Like most Soviet people, Konopelko says he had no access to effective contraception, and few are those who can raise children on the 50 roubles (less than \$10) allocated to couples as state support. Young couples are often forced to have their parents care for the grandchildren.

The thirst for change has brought disaffection for the Komsomol. Five years ago, membership was a prerequisite for anyone wishing to study at university. Today 85 per cent of the 15,000 students at Leningrad University have tossed away their membership cards. As representative of the organisation, Skoolko's job used to be to attend Communist Party conferences, distribute propaganda leaflets and chase up Komsomol members who were behind on paying their membership fee.

These days he is under constant criticism from his fellow students. "By being a member of the party, I can negotiate with the authorities," he argues. "I can openly say things no dissident would have even dared think 10



A representative of the Communist youth organisation, Vladimir Skoolko, sees a new role for himself as students make themselves heard.

years ago."

Says fellow student Konopelko: "In the Soviet Union, in order to gain the right to a university education, regardless of the school, one had to be a good Communist first and foremost. I have to take four examinations on different aspects of the Communist doctrine to be accepted into the following year of my studies." Students at Leningrad University have battled against the system and have managed to do away with the military ideology course which they are no longer obliged to attend. However, they still have to sit the annual examination.

Students are also asking for the right to study what they want. For example, the few who get top marks in the university entrance exam are allowed to study the language of their choice. The rest have to take state-imposed courses, as is the case for Dimitri Voleg, 27, who is studying Portuguese.

What happens after university is another hotly debated issue. Now, a graduate who has passed the necessary exams must work for three years in an institution selected by the state before he actually

receives a university diploma. Quite often, the imposed job has no connection with what the youth has studied. A language graduate can well end up on an assembly line in a factory.

Restrictions of movement are also a block to young people's careers. They cannot live and work where they choose. Witness the case of Skoolko whose ambition is to become an English-Russian interpreter: He is from a small town 2,000 kilometres away from Leningrad that offers few employment opportunities, yet the law dictates that he live where he was born, unless he can obtain a special authorisation. "I am going to have to get a divorce and then marry a woman from Leningrad in order to get the necessary papers so I can stay and work here," he says. "I don't want to abandon my wife and 2-year-old daughter. So I will have to divorce again in order to re-marry the woman I love."

The students are proud of having made some inroads into the system that dominates their lives, and it encourages them to continue asking for more world — World News Link.

World's best preserved prehistoric sanctuary saved from destruction

By Hanns Neuerbourg
The Associated Press

MONTIGNAC, France — Young adventurers in search of treasure 50 years ago Wednesday stumbled onto an Aladdin's cave of prehistoric art.

With its magnificent murals created more than 17,000 years ago, the Lascaux Cave near this town in southwestern France is rated by experts to contain the world's finest and best preserved display of prehistoric draftsman.

Hundreds of thousands have admired the vivid colours of its paintings and the clarity of their lines. But mass pilgrimages to the hillside cave in Dordogne brought them to the verge of destruction, forcing its closure in 1963.

A team of scientists using modern technology repaired the damage, ensuring the survival of one of man's earliest masterpieces. Art was hardly on the minds of the four boys, aged 15 to 18, when they roamed the dense forest above the Vézère River on Sept. 12, 1940, on a day off from school. Legend had it there was a secret underground passage extending into the hill from a little chateau at its foot.

"Like all children, we thought, of course, that a treasure was hidden there," Simon Coencas, the youngest of the four, recalled in an interview. "That day three of us were again in the forest. Then a fourth buddy, Marcel Ravat, showed up. 'I think I have discovered the underground passage,' he told us. 'There is a hole in the ground and I think that's it.'"

The hole was barely 80 centimetres wide and deep. But pebbles the boys dropped through a small opening at the bottom indicated it went deeper. "So we made the hole wider," continued Coencas, now 65 and an industrialist living near Paris. "But no one wanted to go down first, except Marcel, the oldest and a real daredevil. We followed after he shouted that he was in a cave."

They landed in the main cavern, which has since become known as the "hall of the bulls" for the huge red, brown and black paintings of bison that dominate the murals. The boys were awestruck by what they saw on the white limestone walls in the flicker of their petroleum lamp.

"It was marvelous," Coencas recalled. "Something one had never seen. It was like a dream." They returned with their schoolteacher, who informed authorities.

One of the first visitors to the cave was Henri Breuil, a Catholic priest and renowned archaeological expert, who called it "a prehistoric Sistine Chapel." He marvelled at the exciting colour combinations created with simple materials such as ochre, iron oxides, and carbon, mixed with animal fat, bone marrow or blood.

Breuil swiftly authenticated the paintings and engravings and three months later the cave was declared a national monument.

It took him years to compile an inventory of the more than 1,000 paintings, drawings and engravings of bison, horses, stags, ibexes and other animals often pierced by arrows or lances.

One puzzling mural depicts a mortally wounded bison seemingly butting a fallen nude male hunter. A pole topped by a bird's head also is part of the scene. Scientists say the cave was never inhabited but must have served as a centre for magic rites designed to induce success in hunting.

Lascaux was discovered by the tourist industry following its opening to the public in 1948. It became a popular destination for travelers from all over the world. Visitors reached a peak of 125,000 in 1962.

But green spots on the frescoes caused increasing alarm among archeologists. Algae, mosses, ferns began spreading rapidly over the murals. In addition, calcite began veiling the art.

Exposure to changes in temperatures, caused by body heat, to carbon dioxide and moisture from large groups threatened to efface within decades what had survived for millennia. The cave was closed to the general public on April 2, 1963 and a team of 40 specialists began the salvage operations.

The inside was sprayed with antibiotics and the walls were treated with formaldehyde solutions. After two years all aggressive microorganisms were destroyed. Stopping the formation of calcite by close climatic controls took longer.

"The cave has recovered," said Jean-Philippe Rigaud, director of the Bordeaux-based prehistoric antiquities office who is in charge of all caves in the Aquitaine region.

"But to keep it in good health we have to apply strict rules for its protection," he added in an interview.

The temperature inside is kept at a constant 12.5 Celsius (54.5 Fahrenheit). More than 50 control instruments also measure air pressure and humidity and warn of other changes affecting the natural balance that existed in the 150-metre long cave before its discovery.

Since 1963, access to the cave has been limited to five visitors a day on five days per week, chiefly scientists and other holders of special passes. Their shoes are treated with an antibacterial liquid so there is no release of the "biological threat."

International demand for passes is so heavy that handling correspondence is a full-time job for one of Rigaud's staffers. Some scientists apply two years in advance.

A replica of the main cavern constructed about 200 metres from the original, has become a new tourist attraction since its completion in 1983. Up to 2,000 visitors a day admire the reproduction of the "hall of the bulls."

"It's a good thing," Rigaud said. "It gives quite a precise idea of what they would see in the original."

Thoughts for this week

No mind is thoroughly well organised that is deficient in a sense of humour
— Samuel Taylor Coleridge, English poet (1772-1834).

Men hate those to whom they have to lie
— Victor Hugo, French writer (1802-1885).

Think wrongly, if you please. But in all cases think for yourself
— Gotthold Lessing, German dramatist-critic (1729-1781).

Genius is one per cent inspiration and 99 per cent perspiration
— Thomas A. Edison, U.S. inventor (1847-1931).

The rotten apple spoils his companion
— Benjamin Franklin, U.S. statesman (1706-1790).

War And Peace boosts fortunes of Seattle Opera

By Tim Klass

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — No longer is the Seattle Opera merely a ringier. Its emerging maturity was established by this summer's "war and peace," which general Director Speight Jenkins said enjoyed the best ticket sales in the company's 27-year history.

The \$2.2-million production of Sergei Prokofiev's rarely performed work showed that the company, known for its ring cycles, could rise to any operatic challenge.

High praise was drawn by the lighting of Neil Peter Jampolis, 573 costumes by Bruno Schwengl and the opera's set, based on a room at the Hermitage in Leningrad.

Still, noted Jenkins, there were "more reviews and enthusiastic reviews" for Der Ring des Niebelungen,

Richard Wagner's four-part operatic Tour de Force that was performed annually from 1975 to 1987, the longest run outside the composer's home city of Bayreuth, Germany.

It was for Das Rheingold, Die Walkure, Siegfried, and Götterdämmerung that the Seattle Opera was proclaimed America's leading Wagnerian opera company by Wagner news.

When he shelved the ring three years ago, mostly for financial reasons, Jenkins hoped to revive it every two or three years. Now he says it will be about every four years, starting in 1991.

"The thing that first got us off the ring-only opera company reputation was 'Orfeo et Euridice,'" a new production of the ancient Orpheus legend in French in January 1988, Jenkins said.

Of the company's six productions last year, four were

new. Ticket sales for the minimalist "Satyagraha" by Philip Glass were about 70 per cent in 1988. Last summer, a \$1.6-million production of Wagner's Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg drew 92 per cent.

The best gate for the ring was 86 per cent of capacity in 1987. Before the opening of War and Peace as part of the Goodwill Games Arts Festival on July 22, Jenkins said he'd be thrilled if sales surpassed 90 per cent. Tickets for the eight performances went so fast that for the first time in the company's 27-year history, a ninth performance was added on Aug. 7.

It, too, sold out, with as many as half the takers hearing War and Peace a second time and others making their first visit to the 3,000-seat Opera house.

One performance also was

taped for high-definition television, a new technology offering much closer detail and greater depth of field than standard television.

Overall, ticket buyers came from at least 48 states and seven foreign countries, said Marketing Director Jim Bailey.

It took Prokofiev roughly three times longer to complete his sprawling opera — and get it past Joseph Stalin's censors — than Leo Tolstoy to write his epic novel of the shifting fortunes of five families during the war in which Russia defeated Napoleon's forces in 1812.

Even with half an hour of cuts, the production was the most complete ever mounted in the United States, lasting four hours with one intermission. There were nearly three dozen singers in 69 roles, an 80-member chorus, more than 100 supernumeraries and 80

musicians. The cast included Soviet and U.S. singers. Bolshoi Opera Conductor Mark Ermler directed the Seattle Symphony Orchestra.

Heightening the stakes was a \$750,000 deficit for the year ending June 30, the Seattle Opera's first red ink in five years, including about \$200,000 from "Meistersinger," Jenkins said.

"Everyone is a gambler in this business, I guess," he said. "If you're going to do this kind of opera, you have to take some risks."

The risk paid off. Ticket sales covered about 50 per cent of the cost, an unusually high proportion, and War and Peace will register no more than a modest loss if \$250,000 in donations is raised by Dec. 31.

In U.S. Opera, especially outside New York, production deficits are the rule even

for sell-outs. "We try to make it up in general contributions," Jenkins said. "Money follows success. That's true in any arts business."

The artistic risk and reward were at least as great.

"Prokofiev has been handsomely served," Allan Ulrich wrote in the San Francisco Examiner.

The production "strongly underlined the work's strengths and did much to make its clumsiest scenes tolerable... (with) a flowing continuity not inherent in the score's scenes-from-Tolstoy form," wrote Donal Henahan in the New York Times.

What's next, after the ring next summer?

"I know exactly what's coming. I'm just not prepared to announce it yet," Jenkins said. But "Aida" was not a bad guess, he said.

Russian baritone gains success after slow start

By Tim Klass

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Baritone Vladimir Chernov has gone from bit parts at the Kirov Opera to top roles around the world in barely two years.

In the Seattle Opera's Soviet-U.S. production of War and Peace, July 22-Aug. 7, his rendition of Andrei Bolkonsky drew standing ovations and nearly unanimous critical acclaim.

Chernov, 36, said through a translator he listened only briefly to a 28-year-old recording of the Sergei Prokofiev work.

"Fortunately, I don't have any preconceived notions of how this thing should be like. Many singers copy each other even if they don't want to," he said. "It's better not to listen to anybody and do it my own way."

Speight Jenkins, general director of the Seattle Opera

and a former New York Post music critic, cited "the ease and his command of the whole baritone range, his use of legato (smooth, even style) and the freshness of his voice, the consistency of his voice — and his evenly controlled personality off the stage."

Jenkins said he first heard Chernov in a minor role in Boris Godunov the night before auditions for War and Peace in Leningrad in 1988. "They brought down a

whole bunch of singers, including Valdimir," he said. "I listened to them and I said, 'this is my Andrei.'"

Chernov sang Marcello in La Bohème in his U.S. debut in Boston last year, Don Carlo in La Forza Del Destino at the Scottish Opera in Glasgow last fall and Posa in Don Carlo at the Los Angeles Opera in May.

He sings with an Italian brightness in contrast with the "very dark, woody timbre"

typical of Russian men in opera, said War and Peace director Francesca Zambello.

James Levine, artistic director of the Metropolitan Opera in New York, heard Chernov in an audition and signed him to performing and recording contracts for Luisa Miller next spring.

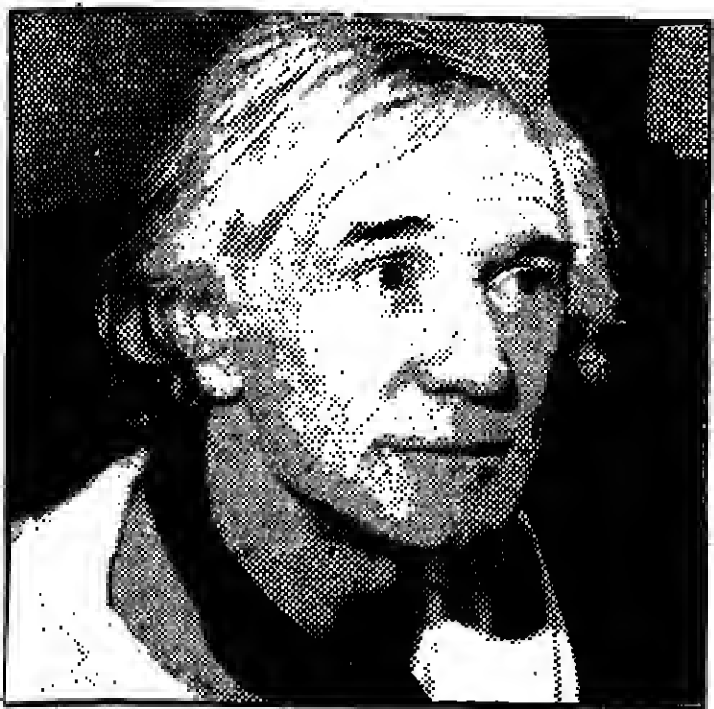
He makes his debut at La Scala in Milan, Italy, on the opening night of the 1991-1992 season and returns to Seattle for Barber of Seville in

1992 and Eugene Onegin in 1994.

Chernov is a prime candidate to become a leading baritone, Jenkins said.

"Yes, no questions, if the companies will be sensitive to the fact that he is still a lyric singer who needs some time to move into the heavier roles," Jenkins said. "To my mind, Vladimir has a lyric tone... wonderful for the lighter Verdi roles... anything but canto."

Richard Harris—resilient survivor and quintessential Irishman



Richard Harris

By Paul Majendie

Reuter

DUBLIN—Actor, extrovert, one-time hellraiser and hard drinker, poet and pot singer — Richard Harris has lived each role to the full as the quintessential Irishman.

His career on screen and stage has touched the heights with memorable performances in *This Sporting Life* and *Camelot* but also included some highly forgettable pot-boilers.

The tabloid columnist's delight, he has crossed swords with Marlon Brando and Charlton Heston in some memorable movie-making clashes.

He has suffered two broken marriages to actresses — first to the daughter of an English

aristocrat and second to a middle-class Jewish woman from New York — seen his brother die of a heart attack and helped his son fight off heroin.

He has gone from two bottles of vodka a day down to total abstinence, become a millionaire by shrewdly buying the rights of *Camelot* and made it into the top 10 with his song *MacArthur Park*.

Now his career is hopefully poised for yet another takeoff with his memorable portrayal of the bearded bull McCabe in the Irish film *The Field*, a stark tale of murder and revenge from the Oscar-winning team who produced *My Left Foot*.

All in all, it seemed an ideal time for writer Gus Smith to embark on a biography of the

man who ranks alongside Peter O'Toole as Ireland's best known actor.

The fascination with the 57-year-old Harris has not died — the book *Richard Harris: Actor By Accident* has gone straight into the bestseller lists.

Despite all those ups and downs, Harris reflects with pride on his career: "What the group of actors of my age — Albert Finney, Peter O'Toole and Richard Burton — had was a fine madness, a lyrical madness."

"We lived our lives with that madness and it was transmitted into our work. So we were always dangerous. Dangerous to meet in the street ... in a restaurant ... and dangerous to see on stage or in a film."

"I have made 42 films. One of them was great — This

Sporting Life — and I have made four which were very good — *Camelot*, *The Molly Maguires*, *A Man Called Horse* and *The Snow Goose*."

The good times are remembered, not the bad. "Most of my excesses I enjoyed. The going was hard but it was good. I once went to see my old friend Peter O'Toole after a play to congratulate him on his performance."

"He looked at me over his glasses and said 'Harris, we should be dead. Think of the lives we have led — 50 lives in 50 years.'"

When growing up in Limerick, one of his screen idols was Marlon Brando. Working together on *Mutiny On the Bounty* in Tahiti proved a sad disappointment.

"I stood up to Marlon Brando at a time when a whole industry cowed and crumbled

before him. I called him a gross, misconceived bloody animal," Harris said in just one of the string of outspoken quotes from him that fill the book.

Sparks flew with Charlton Heston making *Major Dundee*. Harris mckingly wore an alarm clock around his neck to annoy the super — punctual Heston.

Harris emerges as a complex chameleon of many contradictions but film directors were swift to praise his professionalism.

Andrew McLaglen fondly recalled making *The Wild Geese* with Harris and Richard Burton in South Africa.

"It was funny seeing these two old hellraisers off the booze and not complaining. Of course I was aware of their

reputations when I came to make the movie but I lost no sleep over that. They gave me no trouble."

Harris speaks freely of his heavy drinking which all ended at 11.20 p.m. on Aug. 11, 1981 at a Washington bar with two bottles of Chateaux Margaux at \$325 each. "I drank them both and that was it."

"When someone said to me 'You'll be dead within six months if you don't, I stopped overnight. Same with regards to the four packs of cigarettes I used to smoke a day.'"

Now more mellow and philosophical, the resilient survivor offers the perfect epitaph for a career that could so easily have burned itself out: "In life, you have to run the length of your own wildness, testing and examining every foot of the way."

London offers politics, Joan Collins and a Redgrave family affair

By Matt Wolf

The Associated Press

LONDON — Current affairs dominate the new plays, and Joan Collins and the Redgrave family are lending star-



Joan Collins

dust to the revivals on the London stage this typically busy fall season.

Collins has returned to the theatre to play the barbed divorcee Amanda in Noel Coward's *Private Lives*. Co-starring Keith Baxter, the play will run at the Aldwych Theatre through Jan. 12, 1991.

The stylish 1930 comedy marks the actress' first West End appearance since *The Last of Mrs. Cheyney* in 1980. Collins is more widely known as elegantly malicious Alexis on U.S. television's *Dynasty*, but her theatrical roots date back to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, which she attended in the 1950s.

In 1958, Vanessa Redgrave graduated from the academy's rival, the Central School of Speech and Drama, and is among the world's most acclaimed actresses.

In December, at a theatre to be announced, she joins sister Lynn and daughter Joely Richardson in Anton Chekhov's *Three Sisters*. The production follows this summer's *Three Sisters* starring a trio of Irish Thespian sisters — Sorcha, Sinead, and Niamh Cusack. The production, which ends Sept. 29, has been

a sellout in both Dublin and London.

Three Sisters provides Redgrave's first stage role since her controversial Broadway performance last fall in a revival of Tennessee Williams' *Orpheus Descending*.

The season's new plays heavily reflect recent headlines.

The Royal Shakespeare Company's London season is focused on Moscow Gold, a play by Tariq Ali and Howard Brenton about the era of glasnost and perestroika under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

David Calder as Gorbachev and Sara Kestelman as his wife Raisa head a cast of 33 actors playing 102 parts. Mrs. Gorbachev has not yet replied to an invitation to attend the premiere on Sept. 26 at the Barbican Theatre.

On Oct. 10, the Royal Court Theatre opens Caryl Churchill's *Mad Forest*, an impressionistic look at Romania after Nicolae Ceausescu's execution last December. First performed in June with student actors at the Central School, the play was inspired by Churchill's visit to the country last spring. Before opening here, *Mad*

Forest will be performed in Bucharest at the invitation of Andrei Serban, the new artistic director of the city's National Theatre.

England's Royal National Theatre comes to life with David Edgar's *The Shape of The Table*, scheduled to open on Nov. 8, the day before the first anniversary of the breaching of the Berlin Wall. The play, about recent events in the East Bloc, uses the tables at which new governments were negotiated as a metaphor for the governments themselves.

Edgar was the adaptor of *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, the Charles Dickens extravaganza that won the 1980 Tony Award for Best Play.

Sir Michael Hordern, 78, plays a retired schoolmaster in *Keith Waterhouse's Bookends*, opening the week of Oct. 22 at a theatre to be announced.

The show, directed by Ned Sherrin, co-stars Dinsdale Landon as Hordern's former star pupil. It comes from the author, director and producer whose hit *Jeffrey Bernard* is unwell in its eleventh month on the West End. American drama will be



Vanessa Redgrave

represented by Jerry Steiner's off-Broadway hit *Other People's Money*, opening on Oct. 17 at the Lyric. Marian Shaw plays the Wall Street shark originated in New York by Kevin Conway. Maria Aitken, who was John Cleese's wife in the film *A Fish Called Wanda*, co-stars.

Virtually the only big new musical on offer is *Into the Woods*, the London premiere of Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's 1987 Broadway show about fairy tales.

The production, opening Sept. 25 at the Phoenix, promises to be more stylized and less lighthearted than its Broadway predecessor. Under Richard Jones's direction, Julia McKenzie stars as the witch, and Imelda Staunton is the baker's wife.

Otherwise, London continues to host such hardy musical perennials as *Cats*, *Les Miserables*, *Aspects of Love*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Me And My Girl*, and *Miss Saigon*.

Art connoisseurs try to weed out masterpieces from artful forgeries

By Michael Hill

The Associated Press

ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, New York — It's been a long, strange trip for the oil painting of the nude woman and cupid now hanging in a Bard College Gallery.

The painting was found years ago in a hayloft with a modest fig leaf painted on cupid and the chubby, prone woman's breasts enlarged. A private collector bought the painting, removed the over-painting and cleaned it.

The collector, who refused to reveal his identity, says he's convinced the painting was created in a Venice studio by Titian.

The art world isn't so sure. That puts the purported Titian in the same boat as many of the 80 works of art exhibited at "a connoisseur's quest," a new gallery exposition at this college north of New York City.

The paintings from Europe, carvings from Africa and ancient Egyptian pottery are coming under scrutiny by art detectives trying to weed out bonafide masterpieces from artful forgeries.

"Some of these pieces will be shrouded in mystery for the rest of their existence," said Linda Weintraub, curator of the Edith C. Blum Gallery. The exhibit, mounted by Weintraub, publicly displays works for the first time after up to five decades in a private collection.

The collector credits Weintraub, a longtime acquaintance, with persuading him to share his private treasure with the public after all these years. His identity, though, remains hidden to keep attention on the pieces, he said.

"The object of the collection is not the collector. The object is the art," he said in a telephone interview. "I'm glad to have it scrutinized." The scrutiny in this case has focused on the supposed Titian, posited as a first version of the artist's *Danae*, which depicts the picture's namesake just after being impregnated by Zeus.

Weintraub said experts such as former Metropolitan Museum of Art curator Thomas Hoving have declared it authentic.

One dissenting voice comes from artist Martin Canin who says "the painting lacks the quality of execution" to be a real Titian.

"I'm sure it's not," he said. "There's just too many bad passages."

Canin said his painter's eyes can see what many art historians cannot. In *Danae*, he sees little evidence of Titian's lines, and finds an "amateurish" painting of the figures' feet and toes. Canin thinks the work was a product of a contemporary workshop or student.

A large problem with sorting out the works of the European masters is that most of

them trained their young students to paint just like them — often exactly like them. Weintraub said many students were instructed to paint over the master's sketches and even copy their work outright.

"Even pieces with signatures can easily have been done by students," she said. And in the days before photography, copying the great contemporary works by hand for affluent buyers was common.

Bonnie Solomon, a New York art restorer, shone a black light on *Danae*, to determine if the work was fudged with overpainting.

"There was some work done on it, but not a lot," she said. Solomon said she's pretty sure the Titian is the real thing, along with another possible masterpiece by the European master El Greco.

The collection's presumed El Greco, a palm-sized painting of Christ at calvary looking imploringly up to heaven, could represent the finest of the painter's work.

Then again, just like the Titian, it could be the work of one of his rivals or students, or an exceptionally talented painter familiar with El Greco's work.

"But look at his eyes. How could it be by anyone else?" Weintraub said. Even established works of art can become suspect. Vincent van Gogh's *Self-Portrait With Straw Hat*, is familiar to anyone who has ever flipped through an art book. The painting has been in the Metropolitan for years as one of the pearls of its collection. Now, a leading scholar has raised questions about its authenticity.

Determining the creator of some non-European works is less difficult. Artisans kept a lower public profile in many other cultures, so their works tend to be less copied and hence less in demand.

But they pose other problems. "Some of these works, we just have no idea where they're from," Weintraub said.

Works shown in the Bard exhibit such as the Chinese Buddha and little icons of Egyptian deities are easy to trace, but others aren't. Experts agree a small, carved ivory spoon shown at Bard is from Africa. But the where, when and even the why of the spoon are debatable.

"All the scholars are bewildered," Weintraub said. "Even if there's a consensus, it's never absolutely known." Still, the mystery collector says he's relatively unconcerned that someone might soon come up with some devastating evidence his Durer or ancient Greek coins are not what they appear to be.

"I bought all the work for its visual power," he said. "It wouldn't change the effectiveness of the work one bit."

S. Koreans make their Platoon in old Saigon

By Angus Macswan

Reuter

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam — First came *Apocalypse Now*, *Platoon* and *Full Metal Jacket*. Now there's *A Saigon Too Far* — A Vietnam war movie with a difference.

Not only is it a tale about South Korean troops who fought alongside the Americans in the 1965-75 war, but top South Korean director Hoang Dong Jn has stolen a march on Hollywood by sign-

ing up Vietnam's most glamorous actresses and filming in the old southern capital itself.

Korean troops won a fearsome reputation during the war though this film, a love story, will show a gentler side to the Korean nature.

"Many young Koreans came here, fought and died. This movie shows there is a new friendship between Koreans and Vietnamese," Hoang told Reuters.

A Saigon Too Far stars Korean screen heartthrob Dong Jun Lee as a young officer who falls in love with a student played by Tuyet Ngan.

However, the plot is closer to a 1930s Hollywood tearjerker than the soul-searching of American movies such as *Dear Hunter* and *Born On the Fourth of July*.

Soldier meets girl; after passionate affair amid war he is wounded and shipped

home. Unknown to him she has a baby.

He cannot forget her and 16 years later, with anti-Communist Seoul and Marxist Hanoi moving aside the barriers to trade and friendship, he returns to the re-named city. After an anguishing search he finds her and takes her back to Seoul where they live happily ever after.

"It's a love story. Lots of fighting as well, but not all battles. A film must have ro-

mance," said Lee, who is also an international taekwondo champion.

He was speaking during a break in filming the crucial scene where the lovers-to-be first meet, shot on location at the terrace bar of the Majestic Hotel overlooking the waterfront.

The Hanoi-based Tuyet, dressed for the scene in a white silk Ao Dai (Vietnamese traditional dress), is Vietnam's most popular lead-

ing lady.

During a hectic 10 days in Vietnam the cast and crew also filmed battle scenes around the coastal resort of Vung Tau, hiring dozens of Vietnamese peasants to play civilians caught up in the war.

Le Duc Chinh, the Vietnamese production manager, said that as far he knew this was the first such project between Vietnamese filmmakers and those from the non-Communist world.

Dutch close net around missing art treasure taken by Nazis

By Ben Hirschler

Reuter

AMSTERDAM — A search spanning four decades for one of the world's most valuable missing art collections seems to be drawing to a close.

After years of dogged detective work, Dutch art experts hope that hundreds of fine old master drawings will soon be returned to Rotterdam, half a century after they were taken away by the Nazis.

Adolf Hitler's personal art collector, Hans Posse, made his first appearance at Rotterdam's Museum Boymans in June 1940, six weeks after the Germans invaded the city.

Charged with finding works for a planned Fuehrer Museum, Posse, the director of the State Gallery in Dresden, had his eye on the collec-

tion built up by Haarlem businessman Franz Koenigs during the 1920s and housed in the museum.

Posse's choices were usually discussed personally with Hitler and sometimes overruled.

Posse entered into lengthy negotiations about acquiring part of the collection, but the outcome was never in doubt. In March 1941, 526 drawings, including works by Rembrandt, Rubens, Titian and Durer, were shipped to Germany.

Hitler's pet project for a museum in his honour which was to be built in the Austrian town of Linz, where he spent part of his youth, was never realised. The drawings vanished and Dutch officials have been hunting for them ever since.

One Durer drawing was

found by the Americans in 1953 and 33 were returned by East Germany in 1987.

A drawing by Holbein turned up at the British Museum where it had been sent for a valuation in 1987. And yet another work by Hans Baldung Grien appeared in a collection belonging to American Ian Woodner.

The other 490 are still missing — but perhaps for not much longer.

The reason for the optimism is the dramatic improvement of East-West relations over the last 12 months.

Although Moscow has never admitted it, the Dutch are convinced the drawings were looted by Soviet troops in May 1945.

A letter to the Rotterdam Museum in 1983 by a Berlin lawyer offering to sell some of

the Koenigs collection on behalf of a source in the Soviet Union confirmed their presence there, according to Albert Elen of the Netherlands Office for Fine Arts, who is heading the search.

Dutch art detectives were heartened by news last month that another cache of several hundred drawings and watercolours is being returned by the Soviet Union to a museum in Bremen in northern West Germany.

The pictures had been removed by a Soviet army officer from a castle near Berlin where they had been stored to save them from allied air raids. It is one of the largest hoards to be returned since the allies redistributed thousands of artworks found buried in German salt mines at the end of the war.

Elen hopes the Koenigs collection will be next.

Moscow has undertaken to search for the drawings, sending experts to hunt through huge unexhibited stores of pictures in Leningrad's Hermitage and Moscow's Pushkin Museum.

"The Russian authorities have said they will do their utmost to try and locate the drawings. We are hopeful they will succeed in locating them this year," Elen said.

"We have good indications that they are kept partly in state depots, having been brought by art historians or army officers who were involved in transporting works of art from Germany to the Soviet Union after the war."

Under international law, the Soviet Union is obliged to return the drawings if it finds

them. A declaration by the allied powers in 1943 made all transactions with the Germans in occupied countries null and void.

Although Posse paid the museum 1.4 million guilders for the drawings in 1941, the Germans obtained the purchase price in guilders by exchanging worthless reichsmarks and leaving the Dutch Central Bank to foot the bill, Elen said.

Today the missing drawings would probably fetch between 100 million and 150 million guilders (\$57 to \$85 million), Elen estimates.

The value of the works is not the point at issue, however.

"We simply want to get back what rightfully belongs to the state of the Netherlands," said Elen.

Australian hospitals treat growing number of overseas patients

By Michael Perry
Reuter

SYDNEY — Overseas visitors are coming to Australia in their thousands for surgery that costs them perhaps half the price they would pay at home.

Recently, for example, four Americans had micro-surgery in Sydney to reverse vasectomies. They each paid \$5,000.

At home the operation would have cost them at least twice as much — and they could have been charged five times the Australian price.

"For the additional price of an airfare and accommodation in a top hotel, a person gets his operation, a few days' sightseeing, and still has five to \$15,000 change in his pocket," said a micro-surgeon. The surgeon declined to be named as Australian law prohibits doctors from advertising.

Although still in its infancy the business of Australian hospitals treating overseas patients will generate about 57 million dollars (\$47 million) in revenue in 1990 and by 1992, 85 million dollars (\$70 million), hospital officials say.

They say Australia's private hospitals, which specialise in cardiac surgery, currently treat about 6,000 overseas patients annually.

Most come from the Asia and Pacific region, especially Indonesia, Malaysia and Hong Kong. Until recently patients who required specialist treatment would fly to the United States or Europe for operations.

But a concerted marketing drive in the past four years by Australian private hospitals, involving swapping doctors and holding seminars, has seen them tap this lucrative market.

"We are now doubling our patients every year," says John Popper, marketing director at the 300-bed Epworth Private Hospital in Melbourne. Epworth treats about 200 overseas patients a year, mainly from Indonesia.

Epworth first started attracting overseas patients about three years ago and has boosted its efforts in the past 18 months through a doctor exchange programme with Jakarta's Harapan Kita (National Cardiac Centre).

"We send a team of cardiac surgeons to the hospital twice a year and some of their staff come here for post-graduate training. There are direct spin-offs in both directions," says Popper.

Popper says Indonesian doctors specialise in micro-replacement surgery. Australians in heart by-passes.

Hospital administrators and doctors say foreign patients are attracted to Australia because of the cost and quality of treatment. Geographical proximity is a third attraction for Asian patients.

"Australia is about one third to half as cheap as the U.S., West Germany and the U.K., yet medical services are comparable to anything in the world," says Popper.

Barrie Miller, chief executive of the Melbourne-based Med Assistance Pacific, a medical marketing organisation, says a low mortality rate in heart by-pass surgery in Australia is an attraction to overseas patients.

Med Assistance Pacific, which has an office in Jakarta, acts as a middleman for Australian doctors and hospitals and overseas patients.

"We're a one-stop shop. We quote an all up price, which includes doctor, hospital and accommodation, and give them a selection of doctors and hospitals," says Miller.

The Sydney-based Moran Health Care Group, the largest private health care organisation in Australia, has entered into a joint venture with Japan's C.Itoh and Australian Guarantee Corporation to build a 250 million dollar (\$205 million) private hospital on the Queensland Gold Coast to cater for overseas patients.

When it opens in February 1991 the 300-bed hospital, with adjoining 100-suite luxury hotel for post-operative care and relatives, hopes to have an overseas occupancy of 50 per cent.

"The concept is based on the American Mayo clinics and Swiss private hospitals," says Grant Hunter, Moran Marketing director.

Miller says more Asian patients are now choosing Australian hospitals because of the increasing flow of Asian migrants to Australia.

"Many now have relatives in Australia and decide they would like to see them and convalesce with them," he says.

Miller says an untapped market in Asia could be its estimated 400,000 expatriate population.

"We have been talking to major oil companies, McDonalds and Coca-Cola, who all have significant expatriate populations in South East Asia which traditionally go home to have any treatment," says Miller.

"Attracting only 10 per cent of this population for treatment would earn Australia millions of dollars in export income," he says.

'Vaccine against cervical cancer possible'

LONDON (R) — British scientists have said they had taken the first step towards developing a vaccine against a form of cervical cancer usually transmitted sexually.

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) said animal research showed it was possible to produce a vaccine against a sexually-transmitted virus responsible for the development of cervical cancer.

Dr. Lionel Crawford, head of the ICRF's tumour virus group in Cambridge, said while a vaccine was still years away, the hope was that boys and girls could be vaccinated before puberty. This would protect girls against the virus and prevent boys infecting their partners in later life.

Cancer of the cervix kills 2,000 women a year in Britain despite national screening programmes.

Crawford told a news conference he hoped the vaccine could also help strengthen the body's defence systems for women with abnormal smears. A woman's own immune system would destroy the abnormal cells before they turned cancerous.

Exposure to the human Papilloma virus is believed to put some women at higher risk of developing the cancer.

The virus also infects men and has been linked with the development of cancer of the penis.

Crawford said protective antibodies were produced when animals were injected with a gene from the Papilloma virus which had been incorporated into another virus.

"It is the first step towards a vaccine. We are very optimistic," he said.

Doctors taking part in the video also held out hope of reducing the death toll from breast and ovarian cancer.

Professor Stuart Campbell of King's College Hospital in London said ultra-sound screening for ovarian cancer should help cut Britain's 4,000-a-year death toll.

Ian Fentiman, deputy director of the ICRF's breast cancer unit, said 3,000 lives a year could be saved if all women aged 50 to 65 accepted breast cancer screening.

He added that in future, women might be able to take a pill to prevent them getting breast cancer.

War, development bring Vietnam to the verge of an epidemic

By Larry Jagan

HANOI — Vietnam is currently facing a malaria epidemic which threatens to disrupt the country's economic reform programme. And its military support for the government in neighbouring Cambodia is one of the key causes.

The incidence of malaria in the countryside is already approaching crisis proportions, and experts say it will escalate in the next 12 months unless the government extends its anti-malaria campaign. To do that, it needs foreign aid.

Dr. Do Duc Tuy, director of the Malaria Institute in Hanoi, estimates that about 15 per cent of Vietnam's 57 million people have malaria. In some badly affected areas, such as mountainous and border regions, the figure is believed to be near 25 per cent.

In the Ky Ang district of Nghe Tinh province, whole villages are infected. Agricultural productivity has declined drastically as a result.

Some foreign specialists are worried that malaria could spread to nearly half the population. A foreign doctor, Dr. Benjamin Higgins, warns that malaria in South East Asia is on the rise and that Vietnam will experience an explosion in the coming year.

He says that the incidence of malaria is known to expand suddenly every four or five years and that it is Vietnam's turn to experience this upsurge.

Mosquitoes pick up the malaria parasite from an infected person and transmit it to those who are free of the

disease. To break the chain, Dr. Tuy says, a three-pronged strategy is being followed: preventing mosquitoes from biting people, killing mosquitoes and curing people already infected.

But at present, he laments, "all we can do is try to contain the current epidemic." Vietnam does not have the resources to invest in full-scale prevention and eradication programmes.

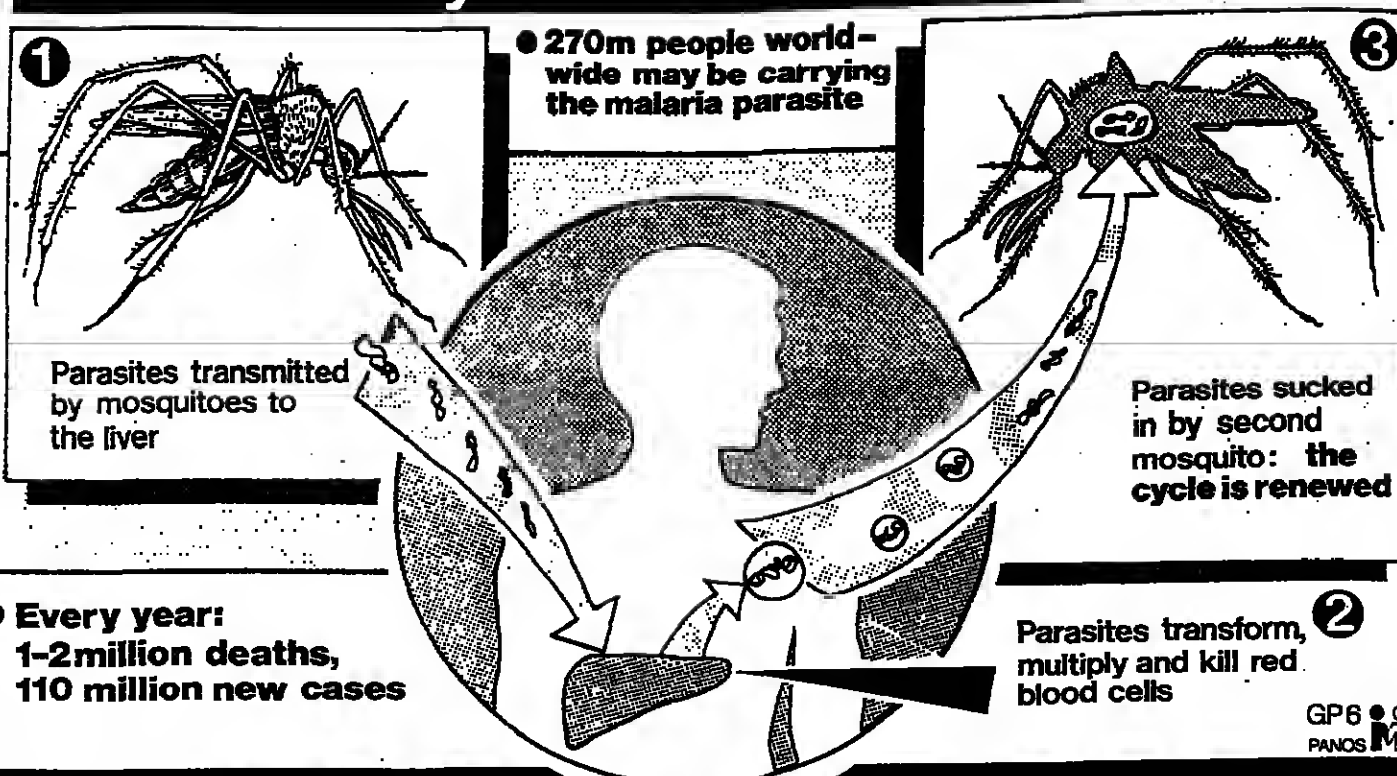
Ten years of fighting in Cambodia have brought Vietnam to the brink of an epidemic. In 1979, Vietnamese troops ousted Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot from power in Phnom Penh, then committed more than a million soldiers to help the Hun Sen government's battle against resistance forces operating from bases in Thailand. In September last year, the Vietnamese withdrew their last troops from Cambodia and began to count the cost.

Bui Tinh, editor of the Communist Party newspaper Nhan Dan, says that in those ten years, more than 120,000 Vietnamese soldiers killed or incapacitated — half of them by malaria. General Tran Cong Man, former editor of the army paper, says 500,000 soldiers returned from Cambodia with malaria. This created a vast new reservoir of the disease, including the virulent cerebral variety.

Dr. Tuy admits the war was an important contributing factor in the current crisis, but prefers to play down its role.

"The movement of people in and out of malaria areas, like the new economic zones, building roads and returning to their own villages with

The malaria cycle



malaria parasite, is certainly the root cause of the current spread of malaria in Vietnam."

Poor economic conditions and inadequate health services have also contributed to the resurgence. "Malaria is even re-occurring in those areas which we regarded as completely free of it."

Dr. Tuy says the major problems is that the malaria parasites have become resistant to formerly lethal chemicals such as DDT and to drugs previously used for treatment. (The World Health Organization recently disclosed that parasites have developed re-

sistance to the drug Mefloquine on the Thai-Cambodian border, a development it warned could endanger more lives than armed conflicts in the region.)

The Malaria Institute is also involved in developing new methods of control, including the impregnation of mosquito nets with the pesticide Permethrin.

According to Dr. Tuy, "this is not harmful to people, but is an effective deterrent against mosquitoes up to 100 metres. Mosquitoes which touch the net are killed instantly." The nets have to be re-impregnated every three or

four months.

Dr. Tuy says there is much work to be done before the method becomes widely used. "In some regions, especially in the 'minority areas,' we have supplied the local people with impregnated mosquito nets but they have not used them."

In such areas, where ethnic peoples do not traditionally use nets, they are encouraged to hang curtains treated with Permethrin. Pilot schemes suggest nets can reduce the number of new cases by 60-70 per cent within five to seven months.

In addition, the insecticide

Icon, replacing DDT — which accumulates in the food chain — is used to kill the malaria parasite before it is transmitted. Icon sprayed into the walls of buildings is effective for up to ten months in killing mosquitoes that come into contact with it.

But control is an uphill battle. "We have no preventative drugs for malaria," says Dr. Tuy. "The state is doing its best to cope with the new growth of malaria, but we need international aid, and investment from the national government, for the next few years if we are to do anything —" Panos Features.

Study links pesticides to farmers' illness

By Jon Miller

CALAUAN, Philippines — Norlito Aquino was distressed when he began losing sensation in his right leg late last year. An energetic 49-year-old tailor, trader, pig breeder, rice farmer and father of seven Aquino says he was doing little but feeling sorry for himself until a visiting doctor suggested that he undergo an intensive series of medical tests.

"I had lost hope," he recalls between chores at his modest house in this small town 80 kilometres from Manila. "I was feeling very sick, and I didn't know why. But the doctor tested me and said my problem was probably pesticides. So I stopped spraying. I lost some income, but I don't care. I haven't felt sick since."

Cynthia Marquez, the doctor who examined Aquino, says the numbness was a symptom of polyneuropathy, a form of nerve damage that destroys the sense of touch. Although the disorder can be caused by various factors, Marquez says that in Aquino's case it was "almost definitely" the result of exposure to insecticides. Like most Asian rice farmers, Aquino wears no shoes when he works in the flooded fields, and Marquez suspects that he absorbed the chemicals through the skin of his feet.

The condition may not have been diagnosed if Aquino had not been working with researchers from the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in nearby Los Banos. Aquino farms a field monitored by IRRI as part of a study to determine the effects of pesticides on health and the environment.

A research team of scientists from IRRI, the University of the Philippines at Los Banos and the Philippine National Crop Protection Centre has found that unsafe handling, spraying and storage of pesticides are most likely to blame for the unusually high rate of nerve, lung, eye, heart and blood disorders among rice farmers.

"The study basically confirms what many health workers have suspected about the dangers of pesticides," says Marquez, an occupational health specialist who performed detailed medical examinations on 56 farmers from four towns in Laguna province, south of Manila. "But not one has ever run so many tests and gathered so much information on a single group of pesticide users."

Researchers monitored the amounts of pesticides used by the farmers over the course of a rice-growing season, along with the types of chemicals used and the duration of direct exposure. Then, to test for long-term health effects, they conducted full-scale laboratory examinations several weeks after harvest. Balancing nutrition and health data against pesticide exposure, they drew best-guess conclusions to distinguish between health problems caused by pesticides and those resulting from other factors.

Project scientists caution that the findings are not conclusive because the number of farmers studied is still quite small. But to Prabhu Pingali, an IRRI economist who heads the study team, some of the results are "mind-boggling."

Of the farmers examined, 55 per cent had eye problems and 54 per cent had cardiovascular irregularities; 41



Researchers are pointing to a link between illnesses suffered by farmers and the use of pesticides in agriculture

per cent had respiratory troubles and about 25 per cent had abnormally low levels of cholinesterase, an enzyme necessary for communication between the brain and other parts of the body. Three of the 56 farmers suffered from polyneuropathy, which has been linked to pesticide exposure in other studies. The incidence of the various ailments was far above what is considered normal in the local population.

Similar tests will be run next year on a larger group of farmers in Nueva Ecija province, north of Manila. Meanwhile, doctors will be evaluating the medical records of certified pesticide sprayers employed by IRRI at its main

experimental farm in Los Banos. The IRRI sprayers wear masks, full-body suits, rubber gloves and boots when they spray, and they should provide a useful control group against which to compare the farmers.

In addition to the ill effects on humans, researchers found that pesticides can contaminate drinking water as well as edible fish, snails, shrimps, and frogs that live in rice fields. They are still trying to determine the lasting impact of pesticide use on soil nutrients. However, the scientists did not find any evidence of pesticide residue in rice grains, confirming earlier studies which concluded that there is virtually no risk of

pesticide poisoning for rice consumers.

Scientists are now working on ways to incorporate the environmental and health data into an analysis of the overall costs and benefits of pesticide use. The \$150,000 study is funded by IRRI and the American Rockefeller Foundation. "This is the first time anyone has gone out with a group of medical doctors, economists, chemists and biologists to look closely at the effects of pesticides on the whole rice production system," says Pingali. "Our results are still preliminary, but it is clear from findings so far that the health effects are far more alarming than the environmental effects."

Pesticide use in rice farming has increased dramatically since the mid-1960s. In the same period, worldwide rice production has increased by more than 75 per cent while the land area under cultivation has increased by only 25 per cent. Along with irrigation, fertilisers and improved rice varieties, insecticides are often considered a fundamental part of rice production. But they are a source of controversy.

"Considering the amount of publicity given to the dangers of pesticides, it's remarkable how little scientific research has been done," remarks Pingali. One major reason is cost, but the biggest problem has simply been logistics. The present study was possible only because IRRI has built a strong network of local farmers who are willing to put up with inquisitive researchers, he added.

The study has not linked pesticide exposure to mortality rates, although that issue will be explored in the coming

months. David Pimental, a researcher at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, estimates that around the world 500,000 people are poisoned by pesticides annually, leading to 10,000 deaths.

"Acute pesticide poisoning is easy to see, but chronic effects are much more subtle," Marquez explains. "People die of pneumonia, of respiratory ailments, of heart problems, and any of these could be traced to pesticide exposure."

Pesticide producers maintain that the chemicals are safe if used properly. But experts point out that poor farmers can rarely afford the costly protective clothing. And when they can afford it, farmers typically find the gear too uncomfortable to wear. According to Pingali, the best way for farmers to reduce health risks is simply to cut the amount of pesticides they use.

For several years, scientists at IRRI have been refining and promoting what is called "integrated pest management" (IPM), which relies less on chemical pesticides and more on resistant rice varieties and natural predators, such as spiders. IPM operates on the principle of "the right thing for the right time" and favours pesticides that target specific pests over broad-spectrum pesticides that kill every insect.

Some scientists at IRRI advocate a total elimination of pesticides in areas where poverty and weak infrastructure make it nearly impossible to ensure safe or cost-effective application — World News Link.

'Genital cancer could be sexually transmitted'

SYDNEY (R) — Some forms of genital cancer may be sexually transmitted, a U.S. dermatologist has said.

Dr. Peter Lynch of the University of Minnesota told an Australian, American symposium on skin cancer that a small proportion of genital warts, which contain a virus called the Human papilloma virus, could be sexually transmitted.

"Genital cancer is one of the more common types of cancer in women. At any one time two per cent of women have had abnormal pap smears," he said. "You're talking about a large number of people who are young and getting younger."

Lynch stressed that only a low percentage of genital warts caused cancer. "Of

genital warts, perhaps five per cent have the potential to cause cancer, and only one per cent will actually be associated with cancer," he told reporters.

Lynch estimated up to 70 per cent of the population was infected with HPV, either latently or overtly, but few of the HPV strains had a high likelihood of causing cancer.

Contraction of cancer was not just linked to having the "wrong" type of HPV, Lynch said. Other factors such as smoking or suppression of the immune system were required.

He raised the possibility of viruses also causing other forms of cancers. "I would not get much support from the

medical community for this supposition," he said.

In about five per cent of cases of lung cancer, HPV has been identified as being present. This could have arrived through transmission via oral sex or perhaps been present from birth via transmission from the patient's mother, Lynch said.

Lynch said HPV could be as contagious as the Herpes virus. "It probably can be caught through everyday contact as hand warts are commonly transferred among children."

He said he believed people who had wart infections when very young helped build up defences to sexual acquisition of warts later in life.

Assad visit to Tehran raises hopes for hostages in Lebanon

By Ed Blanche
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's visit to Tehran next week comes amid signals some Western hostages held by pro-Iranian militants in Lebanon could be released soon.

Diplomats in Damascus said Tuesday that the plight of the hostages is one of the main topics Assad will discuss with President Hashemi Rafsanjani and other Iranian leaders.

In Islamabad, capital of Pakistan, Iranian Ambassador Javad Mansoori told a news conference Tuesday that an unspecified number of the 15 Westerners held in Lebanon might be freed "perhaps in the next few days."

Pakistan has been used as an intermediary with Iran by the United States.

Mansoori gave no details but said Tehran had received "promises" from group's leaders holding the captives that some will be released. He did not name the groups.

Most of the hostages — six Americans, four Britons, two West Germans and an Italian — are held by Shi'ite factions linked to the fundamentalist Hizbollah (Party of God). It is Tehran's

main ally in Lebanon.

Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon and Iran's main Arab ally, has played a role in earlier hostage releases. Assad's visit to Tehran follows talks in Damascus last week with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, during which they discussed the hostage issue.

Assad has sided with the United States in the Gulf crisis against his longtime Arab rival, Iraq. It is the first time Syria has been aligned with Washington in any Middle East conflict.

And Assad, cast adrift from his longtime Soviet mentor as Moscow moved to improve ties with Western nations, is eager to establish new links with the West.

Hopes that some hostages will be freed have brightened since the Gulf crisis set off by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

The confrontation between Iraq and the United States has provided Rafsanjani with unexpected benefits that have helped him consolidate power in the faction-ridden Iranian hierarchy.

Rafsanjani, leader of Iran's so-called pragmatists, has been seeking to rebuild bridges with the West despite opposition by anti-Western radicals. He is believed to have had a hand in the release

of American educators Robert Polhill and Frank Reed in April and in last month's freeing of Irishman Brian Keenan.

When the United States rushed to aid threatened Saudi Arabia, Iraq made peace with Tehran to end the Iran-Iraq war.

Iraq withdrew its troops from territory occupied in the conflict, agreed to share sovereignty of the waterway forming the southern border between the two countries, and began exchanging prisoners of war.

The U.N.-imposed embargo on oil exports from Iraq and Kuwait took 4 million barrels a day off the market and sent oil prices soaring, reaping Iran billions of dollars more than expected.

Informed Shi'ite and other sources said 15 Iraqis and Lebanese imprisoned in Kuwait for 1983 bombings escaped before the Iraqi army took control.

Their release, repeatedly refused by Kuwait's deposed royal family, has been a key demand by the kidnappers in Lebanon.

The Iranians have called recent hostage releases "goodwill gestures" that must be reciprocated by the United States and its friends. France recently released Anis Naccache, a Lebanese serving a

life sentence for the attempted 1980 assassination of former Iranian Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar in Paris.

Syria's ambassador to Iran, Ahmad Al Hassan, was quoted by the English-language Tehran Times daily newspaper on Monday as saying "further reciprocity moves are needed by the West" before any more hostages could be freed.

According to sources in various capitals, those gestures may be forthcoming.

"The United States has been sending signals to Tehran that it wants to improve relations," one source said.

In Amsterdam, a Western source at the Iran-U.S. claims tribunal said the two countries are within days of settling Iran's request for payment of several hundred million dollars for military equipment it ordered before the 1979 Islamic revolution. Delivery of the equipment was frozen by the United States that year.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said another Iranian claim, probably worth hundreds of millions of dollars, was also close to settlement.

Gulf crisis fails to puncture Gulf passion for motor sport

By Peter Bale
Reuters

DUBAI — The Kuwait crisis has not punctured the enthusiasm of the Gulf Arabs for car rallying. Desert survival skills passed from father to son give the descendants of bedouins an edge in the rugged car rallies of the Middle East.

For dispossessed Kuwaitis, who fled their homes following Iraq's August 2 takeover of their country, such rallies also offer a chance to salvage some national pride.

"We are here to show that Kuwaitis still have a fighting spirit and to compete for our country, to show that Kuwait is a country, not part of Iraq," said refugee Chazi Al Zafiri.

Car rallying is a major sport in the oil-rich Gulf states — fed by abundant money, cheap fuel and a passion for fast cars.

"They read the sand, a European wouldn't stand a chance out here," said former Swedish rally star Jan Lindstrom who heads the Mitsubishi-Marlboro team in the Middle East.

Zafiri lined up alongside a Un-

ited Arab Emirates fighter pilot and others on a steamy night recently to hurl their four-wheel-drive vehicles around desert tracks in the seventh round of the UAE rally championship.

He raced in jeans and sweat shirt, his racing suit having been lost in the rush to flee Kuwait.

Zafiri co-drives for Kuwaiti rally champion Eid Falah, in this round in a former Paris-Dakar rally Mitsubishi Pajero.

Falah was in Cairo when Iraq took over his country. He made a harrowing drive back into Kuwait City from Saudi Arabia to rescue his family and a few modest belongings.

"It was pretty dangerous," said Falah — an "I love Kuwait" sticker shining on his racing suit.

"We had to drive across the desert because the roads were full of Iraqi tanks."

Falah and Zafiri are among the 30,000 Kuwaitis who have taken refuge in the UAE, the collection of states at the mouth of the Gulf with close ties to Kuwait.

The crisis has proved a blow to the rallying career of leading emirates driver, Sheikh Suhail Bin Khalifa Al Maktoum.

Fifth-in-line to the Dubai throne, the 23-year-old sheikh is a first lieutenant in the UAE air force, flying daily sorties in his British-made Hawk light fighter.

Rally driving is his second great love and he enjoys full sponsorship from Mitsubishi which supplies him its latest Galant four-wheel-drive, four-wheel-steering, turbo-charged rally car.

He had been due to compete in rally events in Kuwait and Yugoslavia later this year but a military alert in response to the Gulf crisis intervened.

"(Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein has ruined it," he said bitterly, leaning on his gleaming car, a fire-red racing suit.

"I would love to go and drive overseas and get more experience but I can't because of the situation. Everybody hopes nothing is going to happen but we have to keep flying and be prepared."

With his privileged position as Dubai royalty Sheikh Suhail has had a charmed entry into rallying and the airforce. He started competing in cars and flying aircraft at 15 — two years younger than the normal age for getting a driving licence.

"I had to have my licence early so that I could drive to the airbase to fly," he explains.

"I think I like flying best," he said. "There's a different skill involved. When you're flying you are in the air all by yourself, no co-driver, it's just you and your aircraft."

But he said skills learned in the air were valuable for pushing the car and driver to the limit. "The flying gives you better reactions ... maybe it lets you go faster."

Says manager Lindstrom: "They are absolutely fearless." Sheikh Suhail's reactions and or worked well. He won the rally over six bruising stages of 55.4 km in 26 minutes and 42 seconds, more than three minutes faster than the Land Rover of Abdullah Omar of the UAE.

Kuwaitis Falah and Zafiri didn't read the sand so well, became stuck in one of the desert stages and came ninth.

Another driver was disqualified for taking a short cut. Others abandoned traditional skills in favour of Western technology and had spotter cars around the course relaying advice by car telephone, but to no avail.

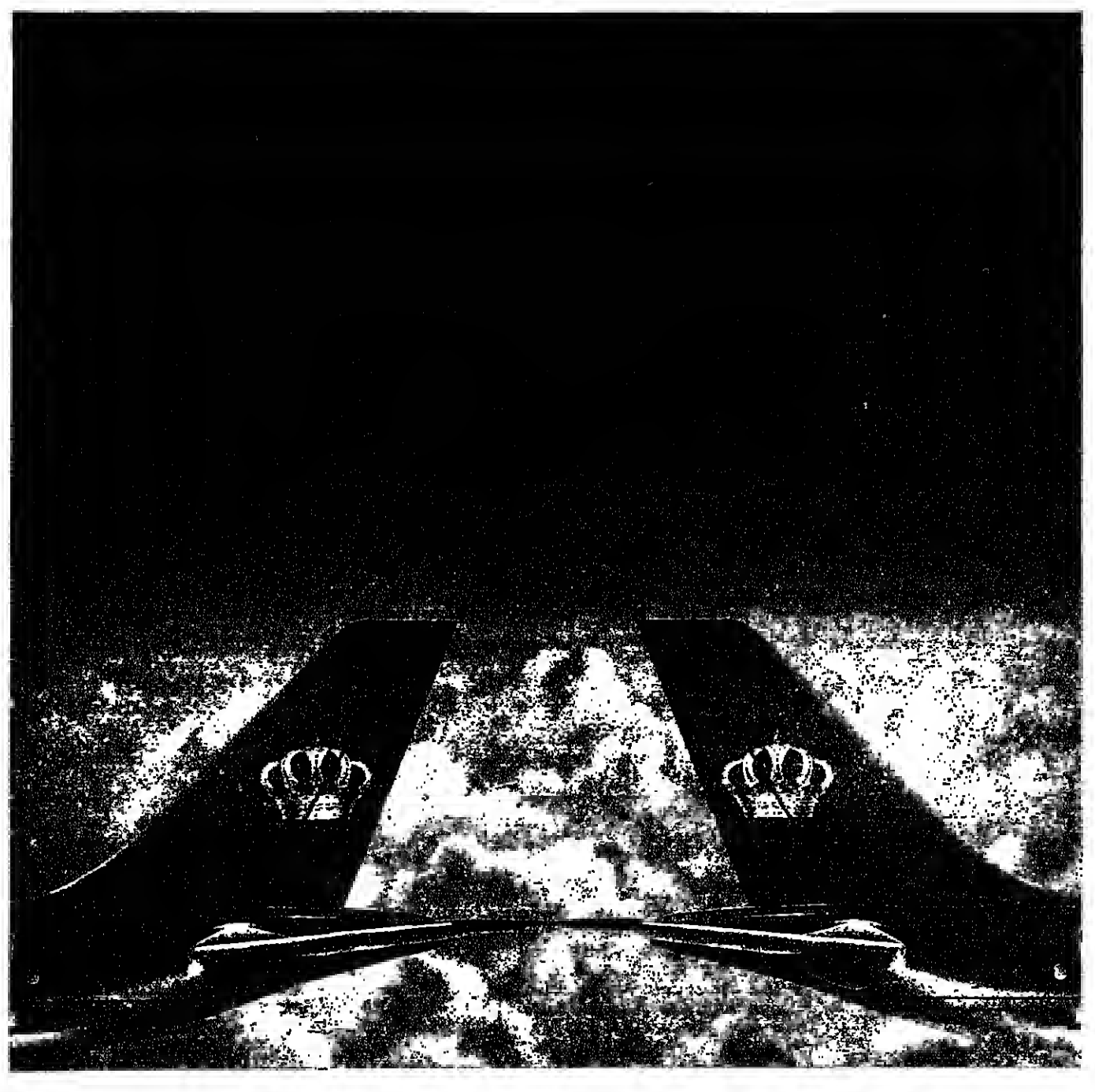
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Jardaneh warns of problems

(Continued from page 1)

the Iraq sanctions were as low as four per cent of their respective GDP.

The minister presented a summary of the Jordanian economic situation outlining the adverse impact of the Gulf crisis and the sanctions. It showed a loss of \$12.144 billion in the form of exports of goods to Iraq and Kuwait (\$280 million), financial assistance to the budget (\$185 million — \$135 million from Kuwait and \$50 million from Iraq) — forfeiture of Iraqi re-

payment of debts (\$169 million), transit business (\$250 million), tourism (\$230 million), expatriate remittances (\$320 million), increase in imports (\$220 million), difference in oil prices (\$180 million), increase in freight and insurance premium (\$120 million) and cost of emergency relief operations for evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq (\$30m).

Jardaneh said these figures did not include the invisible but real-term effects of the Gulf crisis in the form of possible return of 250,000 expatriates from Kuwait, contributing the already high unemployment in the country, the loss in the investments and real savings as well as termination benefits and provident fund of expatriates, losses of Iraqi dues to the

private sector and the massive crippling of the transport sector which subsisted mainly on Iraqi imports and exports through the port of Aqaba.

Excluding phosphates and potash, Jordanian commodity sales to Iraq represented 40 per cent of the Kingdom's total exports, he said.

"Still, Jordan is expected to lose much more than this if its economic and financial relations with Kuwait and Iraq are taken into consideration," he said.

Jardaneh, however, struck an optimistic note. "There are good indications that assistance is coming from Japan, West Germany and the European Community" in line with their pledges to help states hit by the international sanctions against Iraq. But, he said, it is too early to specify any figures of the expected aid.

While the signs are positive, he also warned that if Jordan does not receive the aid, "the economy might be facing serious collapse."

"Unless Jordan receives substantial support from the international economic community, the economy will start to face serious problems and difficulties — in my judgement starting either late in September or early October," he said.

Iraq seizes company assets

(Continued from page 1)

with the government before the Security Council imposed the sanctions.

The contracts included construction of power plants, reservoirs, dams, oil projects, roads and bridges under Iraq's development plan.

The RCC decree was backdated to Aug. 6.

Iraqi courts had been banned from considering any challenges mounted by the governments or companies involved.

The United States and the EC also froze Kuwaiti assets but later released those under the control of the toppled Kuwaiti government.

The RCC said Iraq would not bear responsibility for any damage resulting from the delay by foreign institutions or companies to meet contracts with the Iraqi government, companies or individuals.

The decree denounced deci-

sions to freeze Iraqi assets and property abroad as invalid.

"Any law or decision taken by governments connected to the freezing of Iraqi money and assets abroad does not hold," it said.

U.N. session

(Continued from page 1)

Gulf crisis with all other Middle East issues, including the Israeli-occupied territories and Lebanon.

Kuwait's deputy representative, Mohammad Al Sallal, objected that the PLO observer's references to the Arab initiative and to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait "do not represent anybody except those who submitted it." The remarks were contrary to resolutions by the Arab League and the U.N. Security Council, he said.

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Olympic committee invokes strict enforcement of bidding rules

TOKYO (AP) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) launched a crackdown Wednesday on the free-spending campaigns of cities hoping to host the games. Flagrant violators could be banished from the bidding.

A day after handing a billion dollar present to Atlanta — the centennial Olympics in 1996 — the IOC's executive board placed strict limits on the gifts and travel that bidders can offer committee members.

While Atlanta organizers held their first round of meetings about actually staging the games and talked of record television and advertising packages, the losers were clearing out their offices and wondering what went wrong.

"The Olympics have become a North American event," said Jean Walsh, communications director of Melbourne's bid.

Atlanta will be the fourth North American Olympics since 1980. Nevertheless, the Australian city announced Wednesday that it would try again for the games of 2000.

Billy Payne, the head of the Atlanta bid, said the White House had called to arrange a congratulatory meeting with U.S. President George Bush in Washington next week.

"I think he sees it as a chance to reaffirm the American commitment to the Olympic movement," Payne said. Bush made a videotaped appeal to the IOC on behalf of the Atlanta bid

Tuesday.

From now on, each bidder can invite each IOC member to visit the city once. Gifts to members are limited to a total of \$200.

Unlike previous attempts to hold down the expenses, the board this time included punishment in the new rules. It will publicize violations it discovers and — if the bidding crime is bad enough — throw the candidate out.

"We are not trying to be policemen, we will not turn into the CIA or the FBI," Francois Carrard, the IOC's secretary general, said. "But there should be acceptable rules. We are not going to check, but we are not naive. And if it's known that they have broken the rules, we will publicize it to all of the Olympic Movement."

Carrard said a bidder's expulsion would be used as a last resort.

There have been reports of numerous first-class flights to faraway destinations and lavish presents, including gold medallions and jeweled necklaces, as the lists of bidders have grown in recent years.

Carrard and Jim Worrall, a retired IOC member from Canada, said the problem started in 1986, when 13 cities were bidding for the 1992 summer and winter games. Diamonds, fur coats and other luxury items were said to be changing hands then.

"Those campaigns showed

there was an almost-terrorist effort by some cities," Carrard said. "This time, things were improved. But when you have six big cities in the bidding, as we did this year, things have a way of escalating."

The scope of the problem was illustrated by Bob Scott, head of Manchester's unsuccessful bid. Manchester's \$5.7 million bid budget was a fraction of the other cities'.

"We spent no money whatsoever on gifts, which didn't stop members from coming up to me and thanking me for the gifts they received," Scott said.

Princess Anne, one of Britain's IOC members, said Manchester's strategy had been correct, even though it was eliminated on the second round with just five votes.

"I am in the habit of sending (the gifts) all back, and that has created a busy task for the people with me — a rather steady stream," she said. "We chose not to do that and believe the money can be better spent developing sport."

The IOC also took the first step toward controlling the growth of the summer games.

It adopted a new charter that says sports must be played in at least 75 countries on four continents for men and 40 countries on three continents for women to be part of the Olympic schedule. The limits now are 50 countries on three continents for men and 35-3 for women.

The new limits make effect for the games of 2000.

The charter revision, headed by Worrall, took eight years, and the copy now goes to International Federations and National Olympic Committees.

"This is no total revolution. It is restructuring of the document that is readable and workable," Carrard said.

The session also elected Kevan Gosper of Australia as a vice president, filling a new position. Gosper has been a member of the executive board.

Most of the bidders said before Tuesday's vote that Athens was the only city to which they would not mind finishing second, because of its historical attraction. With Atlanta the winner, the bitterness of some was coming out.

"I still think we had a bid as good as Atlanta's," Walsh said. "But it appears that a city that offers everything can't win... I would have thought that IOC members, if they loved the Olympic Movement, would realize that the Olympic Movement belongs to the world."

Still, Melbourne jumped right back into the race to host the first games of the 21st century.

"We were disappointed by last night's results but we will not be discouraged," Joan Kirner, premier of the Australian state of Victoria, said. "Our bid is too good to be allowed to sink without trace."

Shock, anger and tears follow IOC announcement

SHOCK, anger, disappointment and tears flowed from the five cities rejected by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as hosts for the 1996 summer Olympics.

While firecrackers exploded in Atlanta workers wept and clutched roses in Manchester England. An Australian government official cried "no fair" and the Yugoslavian news agency Tanjug called the decision "a gross sports injustice."

But disappointment seemed to be greatest in Athens, which lost to Atlanta on the final ballot of five rounds of voting.

Crowds gathered in Grecian town squares Tuesday, waiting for the 21-gun salute that would kick off parades around the country. Ships in port were ready to sound their sirens with the news that Athens would host the centennial of the modern Olympic Games in 1996.

After it was announced Atlanta had beaten Athens, Toronto, Melbourne, Manchester and Belgrade, crowds in Athens slowly dissolved into a city decked with flags but plagued by power blackouts and traffic chaos.

The problems in Athens have been brought on by more than a week of strikes to protest the conservative government's austerity measures.

At Athens' Panathinaic Stadium, the white marble horseshoe shaped stadium that

was the birthplace of the modern Olympics in 1896, people expressed their anger.

"We began the games and we should have got them," said Stefanos Vassiliou, a high school student — one of about 40,000 young people who had volunteered to help organize the Olympics.

"Athens should have got the Olympics," Nikos Toulatos, an architect, said. "We had made good preparations for the organization and infrastructure."

Others, holding a three-page programme of planned celebrations, cried out, "It's a disgrace."

In Melbourne, people booed and immediately started drifting away from city square, despite a performance by one of the country's more popular musical groups, Crowded House.

Those who remained shouted angrily over the decision. The boisterous atmosphere that prevailed earlier virtually evaporated.

Thousands of mostly young people jammed city square to listen to live music before the announcement at 9:50 p.m. local time. Hundreds already were there six hours earlier, and police eventually closed off nearby streets as the crowd grew steadily and overflowed the square.

Stores stayed open late. About a dozen searchlights crisscrossed the sky, occasionally catching errant helium balloons carrying Olympic

bid logos into the night sky.

Steve Crah, tourism minister for Victoria state, where Melbourne is located, made no secret of his anger at the decision. "It's not fair — Melbourne had an impeccable bid and America has won it. If it was Greece you could understand it, but it wasn't."

American money has done it and it's a pity — it's about time they came down to the southern hemisphere."

In Toronto, about 4,000 disappointed Olympic boosters left the Skydome and headed to work after learning Atlanta had been chosen. The crowd watched the announcement on their Skydome's huge TV screen.

"It was depressing," said Mike Sabo, a 28-year-old bar manager. "Maybe we'll get it next time."

"Your heart goes down to your

stomach," said John Dinunzio, a Toronto air conditioner installer.

Jacquelyne Zelding, 23, said Atlanta should not have got the games because Los Angeles had the summer games only six years ago.

"They shouldn't keep giving it to the same country," she said. In Belgrade, the Tanjug commentary said that despite the fact Belgrade has been trying to stage the Olympics since its first bid in the 1930s, it is now "highly unlikely" it will get future games.

"It was the wealth of the Coca Cola company and the might of the CNN television network which won the right" for Atlanta to stage the games, said Tanjug, quoting unidentified Yugoslav officials. "The IOC's choice was based on profits which the IOC itself criticized for years."

Italians hail Alesi's transfer to Ferrari team

MILAN, Italy (AP) — The Italian press Wednesday hailed, in frontpage reports, the transfer of French driver Jean Alesi to the Ferrari team for the 1991 Formula One season.

Alesi, who will team at Ferrari with fellow-Frenchman Alain Prost, is considered by racing experts the rising F-1 star who may challenge to driving skill and popularity Ayrton Senna, the

Brazilian driver of the McLaren-Honda team.

Turin's daily La Stampa called Alesi the emerging talent of auto racing. Italy's largest sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport wrote he and Prost will form "a super duo."

The 26-year-old Frenchman of Italian ancestry was quoted by Gazzetta dello Sport as saying "it's fantastic. I still can't believe it."

Nations divided over Iraq at Asian Games

PEKING (R) — Asian nations are bitterly divided ahead of Thursday's crucial vote on whether to expel Iraq from the Asian Games which open in Peking Saturday.

"The vote will be close. It will be unpredictable. It can go either way," said Chaman Lal Mehta, secretary of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

Iraq's fate is to be decided in a secret ballot by National Olympic Committee heads from the OCA's 38 member states and territories, including representatives of both Baghdad and the Kuwaiti government in exile.

Mehta said it was not yet clear whether members would back a recommendation by the OCA's Executive Committee to ban the Iraqi sportsmen from competing.

If Iraq is to be expelled from the games, at least two thirds of the votes cast must be in favour. Abstentions will not count.

Delegates said stormy debates preceded two previous Asian

Games expulsions — Israel's in Tehran in 1974 at the urging of Arab nations and Taiwan's in Bangkok in 1978 to ease China's re-entry into the OCA.

In Peking Wednesday, pro- and anti-Iraq delegates traded bitter accusations.

"For us, it is an emotional issue," said a spokesman for the Kuwaiti delegation. "Iraq committed aggression against a member country of the OCA. Iraq must go."

A sport official from Saudi Arabia said: "Iraq will be expelled. We are sure. We cannot allow the movement to be divided."

Jordan, leading Baghdad's defence in Peking expects support from countries who want a compromise that would allow both Iraq and Kuwait to compete.

Countries believed to support a compromise include Malaysia and India, according to a South East Asian sports official.

Only Agassi missing from Paris Open tennis games

PARIS (R) — Next month's \$2-million Paris Open men's tennis tournament has attracted a stronger-in-depth entry than any of this year's Grand Slam events with only Andre Agassi missing, organisers said Wednesday.

The American world number four, apart of the top 37 on the Association of Tennis Professionals' computer ranking list have signed up for the competition which starts on Oct. 29.

The seedings will be headed by world number one Stefan Edberg, Boris Becker and Ivan Lendl.

If all the players appear, the tournament will be the strongest ever held outside the four Grand Slam competitions.

The entry list is so formidable that the 1987 Paris Open champion American Tito Mayotte, ranked 38th in the world, is not entitled to one of the 36 automatic places in the main draw and will have to play in the qualifiers if he does not receive a wild card from organisers.

Tournament Director Patrice Clerc said: "Last year we had an exceptional entry but we were careful not to repeat it."

"We wanted to wait until this year to see whether it was just coincidence or whether players had decided that the Paris Open was one of the great events of the season, a tournament not to be missed."

"This year we have a real confirmation that the tournament is a prize choice for players."

The indoor tournament, at the modern Palais Omnisports in the Paris suburb of Bercy, will be played on a new French-made Tarmatex synthetic surface, the material to be used at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Flighter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Promote your desire and intent to gain the good will of those you know to be very social and make as many contacts as possible but be sure to act in an unobtrusive manner in gaining your objective....

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) If you concern yourself with a plan to have more of this world's goods now you best succeed by getting an expert in the outside world to aid you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Consider well what an early minded partner desires and be sure you think out some new methods of gaining for the same old system won't work out well.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Much of a business nature is coming up now that can be most helpful to you in your daily occupation so be sure to latch on to and start news for efficiency.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever you have in mind for pleasing one whom you are very fond requires subtle finding out what that individual likes the most now.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Consider well what needs repairs or renovating at your dwelling then you will be able to contact stores that deal in such materials, articles.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have a very brilliant idea for increasing the productivity of your everyday occupation but you need some assistance from a congenial companion.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) One who is successful and pretty fixed in ways success comes to that person will privately give you a well rounded awareness how to be more prosperous.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A person from afar who rarely travels is now in a position to let

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH © 1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

FIND THE KILLING LEAD. North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ K 10 6
♥ Q J 8 3
♦ A 5
♣ K J 8 4

WEST
♠ J 9 8 4
♥ A 10
♦ J 8 6 3
♣ A 5 3

EAST
♠ Q 7 3 2
♥ 7 5 4
♦ K Q 10 9 4 2
♣ 9

SOUTH
♠ A 5
♥ K 9 7 6 2
♦ 7
♣ Q 10 7 6 2

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1♣ 3♦ 3♥
5♦ 5♥ Pass Pass

Opening lead: ♠ 7
Books have been written on the subject of opening leads, but you cannot lay down rules to cover all situations. For instance, look only at the West hand and the bidding. Then decide what you would lead against South's five-heart contract.

With such a huge fit for opener's suit, there was no way East's preempt was going to keep South out of the auction. If partner did not have support for hearts, South could al-

ways retreat to clubs. Once the heart fit was located, North elected to compete rather than defend.

At one table, West led a diamond. Declarer took the ace in dummy, came to hand with a diamond ruff and led a heart. When West ducked, declarer won and continued a second trump, and the defenders could come to no more than their pair of aces.

Sitting West at the other table was Richard Pavlicek of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Looking at two aces, it was overly optimistic to expect East to have the ace of diamonds, and certainly either declarer or dummy was going to turn up with a singleton diamond. Therefore, Pavlicek decided to look elsewhere for the setting trick.

The most likely chance, it seemed, was to find East with either a singleton club, or a doubleton club with at least two hearts. So Pavlicek led the ace of clubs and another.

East's ruff sealed declarer's fate quickly.

Had East held a doubleton club, West intended winning the first trump lead and continuing with a third club. The whole defense, especially the choice of opening lead, was built around the fact that West had control of the trump suit.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Flighter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A determination on the part of most everyone to get what they want is bound to lead to some differences of opinion today so try not to get caught up in any major disputes with close associates.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Is your day to do nothing to which anyone in the public eye could take exception, otherwise you could have some loss of good standing.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Finish some new interest you have been pursuing but the time is not yet ripe for you to get into the various aspects of another venture.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Consider well whatever promises you have made whether of a personal or business nature and despite annoyance about them, keep your cool.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Some matter comes into the open that startles and surprises you but don't show your amazement and you win out in an untenable situation.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Strain and tension between some fellow associates and you is bound to occur sometime and if it does today, take it in your stride, absent yourself from strife.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have been looking forward very much to some pleasure that conflicts with the whims of another person who can make it tough to enjoy.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Best not to contact any friends today who are inclined to be

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Maybe it's called produce because the prices produce big headaches."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: MANGY DROOP UNRULY STYME
Answer: What that steady drinker was most of the time—UNSTEADY

THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon



ACROSS
1 Hornet
5 City on the West Coast
10 Ready, aim, fire
14 Baghdad's river
15 George & T.S. series
16 Hensley TV series
17 Behavior
19 Potato
20 Hurricane center
21 Article
22 Bars legally
24 Treason
25 Rayed flower
26 Charge
29 Entertainers
32 Actor Julia
33 Make goo-goo eyes at
35 Floor, Fr.
37 Mountain
38 Tail, tailless
39 Hunters' org.
40 Stared open-mouthed
42 Bell
43 Maple genus
44 Ancient Dead
46 See people
48 Teaching
49 Of the kidneys
49 Guinea pig
50 Petty ruler
52 Virile
53 Large boat
56 Stay in a pole
57 Share
60 Pacific
61 Industrialist
62 — to live
62 Dies —
63 Fruit drinks
64 Swiss river
65 Auld lang —

DOWN
1 Lie at anchor
2 Nobel chemist
3 Nucha
4 Ring decision
5 Discard extra cargo
6 Comic Fudd
7 Per —
8 Musical Ho
9 Certify
10 Most expeditious
11 Weight
12 Enlist again
13 Concludes
18 Narrow inlet
23 Fluffy abodes
24 Loli's daughter
25 Staggering
26 — to live
27 Dinner course
28 Giving aid
29 Egypt
30 dancing girls
31 White bird
31 Scorchers
34 Mailer
37 MN city
38 Not to mention
41 Arise
43 Some
45 Telegraph key
46 Always
47 Table fowl
50 A Thompson
51 Footless
52 Oriole
53 Ethereal
54 Kind of leather
56 High or deep
58 Cheering word
59 "comany of these"

Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Israeli central bank accuses government of mishandling sale of state-owned bank

TEL AVIV (R) — The Bank of Israel Tuesday accused the government of mishandling the sale of state-owned IDB Bankholding Corp. Ltd., saying it had given preference to the bank's ousted Israeli directors.

In an unusually strong statement, central bank governor Michael Bruno recommended extending the tender's deadline by three months to widen competition for IDB, the first of four banking groups slated for privatisation.

It was the latest criticism of a troubled privatisation scheme Israel hopes will raise capital to

fund a mass influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants. Bruno said problems with the IDB deal could undermine the sale of other state firms.

Only two candidates made the mandatory \$10 million deposit by the Sept. 12 deadline to secure participation in the bidding, he said. One was the Recanat family, which was stripped of control in 1986 over a bank shares scandal.

The Recanats still own nearly 13 per cent of IDB, built around Israel Discount Bank. It is the third largest bank in Israel with

assets worth \$15 billion.

Bruno criticised a contract between the Recanats and M.I. Holdings (MIH), the state firm that holds IDB's shares, setting the terms for the sale of a stake of between 26 and 51 per cent. He said the central bank knew of the terms only after the pact was signed.

"The restrictive conditions in the contract with the current owners and the preference that was given to them in the contract contributed to deterring buyers," the statement said.

"For example, (there were)

conditions that determined IDB would be sold as a whole and not split up, (and) the short time given for announcing one's participation in the tender."

British publisher Robert Maxwell decided not to bid for IDB, telling Bruno in a letter one day before the deadline that he was interested in buying only IDB's industrial holdings.

Banking sources said other potential foreign investors had expressed reservations about the tender and feared they would not be given enough access to IDB's financial records.

Egypt calculates \$2.73 billion in losses from crisis in Gulf

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Egypt's losses from the Gulf crisis will reach 7.5 billion Egyptian pounds (\$2.73 billion), the government's planning minister was quoted as saying Wednesday.

Minister Kamal Al Ganzouri reported the crisis' impact on Egypt to the cabinet before leaving for Washington and meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the state-owned newspaper Al Ahram reported.

One of his missions in the United States is to discuss debt relief with the agencies.

Al Ahram said Al Ganzouri's cabinet memorandum predicted that Egypt will lose three billion pounds (\$1.09 billion) in expatriate workers' remittances.

Another three billion pounds will be lost to increases in import prices, the document said.

About 400,000 Egyptians worked in Kuwait and 1.5 million in Iraq before Iraq's takeover of Kuwait. About 280,000 have returned to Egypt, and tens of thousands more are expected.

The minister said Egypt's Suez

Canal will lose 300 million pounds (\$109 million) in revenues. The U.N.-led international blockade against Iraq and the absence of oil exports from both Iraq and Kuwait are expected to reduce traffic through the international waterway.

Tourism income also will fall, by 700 million pounds (\$255 million), added the memorandum. The Gulf crisis has led thousands of tourists to cancel their plans to visit Egypt.

The memorandum said two plans currently are under study to offset the losses. One is a possible cutback in imports, the other an increase in industrial production.

Minister Al Ganzouri's report to the cabinet followed a series of ministerial meetings, some chaired by President Hosni Mubarak, to assess losses from the seven-week-old Gulf crisis and to consider remedies.

The report also was prompted by Al Ganzouri's expected talks in Washington with officials of the two international financial institutions on an Egyptian economic reform package.

The International Monetary Fund's agreement to the package is a necessary first step toward getting Western and other creditors to reschedule some of Egypt's foreign debt of about \$50 billion.

The debt includes \$6.7 billion owed to the United States for arms purchases between 1979 and 1985. President George Bush has proposed to Congress that the entire debt be forgiven because of Egypt's economic difficulties, compounded by the Gulf crisis.

Al Ganzouri's report coincided with committee-level congressional debate on Bush's proposal which begins this week.

Meanwhile, Egypt has increased its oil export prices by \$2 a barrel for all hedges effective Wednesday, an oil ministry official said.

This was the second increase in three days, a record in Egyptian oil annals. Monday, export prices were raised by \$3 a barrel for all blends.

The Gulf crisis accounted for the quick price increases on world

markets. Wednesday's increase was decided by the inter-departmental government committee charged with reviewing oil prices. It includes officials from the oil, finance, foreign and other ministries.

Monday, Oil Minister Abdul Hady Kandil did not even wait for pricing committee members to assemble for a review and himself ordered the \$3 per barrel increase.

Egypt previously reviewed export prices every fortnight but changed the practice after Iraq's takeover of Kuwait. Since then, the reviews have been made at shorter and irregular intervals.

Egypt produces 870,000-900,000 barrels of oil daily. It is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. It exports almost half of the output at prices that are set in light of world market conditions and OPEC policies.

Egypt is expected to gain one million in oil revenues due to successive increases in its oil prices.

Gulf crisis worsens Lebanon's plight

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Youssef Bazzi climbed a cliff in Beirut overlooking the Mediterranean last week and flung himself on the rocks below. He was Lebanon's first fatality in the Gulf crisis.

Bazzi, 45, a Shi'ite Muslim cab driver, left a handwritten note on the cliff along with the identity cards of his four children: Imad, 13, Iham, 11, Fatima, 9 and Youssef, 6.

"I can't cope any more. I can't feed even you, let alone send you to school," the note said. "I've decided to end my agony. Good luck to all of you and please forgive me."

Bazzi's death was a dramatic example of how Iraq's takeover of Kuwait has caused widespread economic and social hardship in a country already ravaged by 15 years of civil war.

The invasion has sent the Lebanese currency tumbling to a record low — from 600 liras to the dollar in late July to 1,200 liras to the dollar now.

The prices of commodities have tripled or quadrupled over the last two weeks. A loaf of bread sells at 10 cents, five times what it cost early last month.

The worldwide surge in oil

prices triggered by the crisis has been devastating. Lebanon has to import all its oil and is now paying double what it was six weeks ago with foreign currency it can ill afford.

The price of 20 litres of gasoline has nearly tripled from \$3.50 to \$9.00. Heating and power generator fuel has gone up from \$2.80 for 20 litres to \$7.50.

It's the same story with staples like rice, sugar, vegetables, potatoes, milk and canned food.

Lebanon has to import more than 90 per cent of its food requirements.

The government-decreed minimum wage of 45,000 Lebanese liras a month is now worth \$40 compared to more than \$80 in late July.

"My salary's barely enough to support my wife and two kids for one day, let alone a whole month," lamented Mahmoud Safi, 30, a minimum-wage bus driver.

Economists say that the Gulf crisis has as done as much damage to the economy, once the most prosperous in the Middle East, as the 15 years of civil war, Israeli invasions and factional feuding put together.

President Elias Hrawi's government was counting on \$2 bil-

lion in reconstruction aid pledged by the oil-rich Arab nations of the Gulf to help shore up the Lebanese economy. But that's become a mirage.

"This hope has been buried in Kuwait's sands," said a commentator on Beirut's Voice of the People radio station. "No one can expect anyone in the Arabian Peninsula to show concern for Lebanon. They're preoccupied with the Iraqi threat on their doorstep."

Francis pleas by Hrawi and Prime Minister Salim Hoss to have Lebanon listed as a hard-hit victim of the Gulf crisis, in quality for international compensation like Egypt, Jordan and Turkey, have fallen on deaf ears.

In a recent message to Western heads of state, Hrawi said some 50,000 Lebanese who had been working in Kuwait and sending home about \$200 million a month are now broke.

One of them, H. Zahreddin, a wealthy businessman, flew to Beirut Aug. 1 to throw a wedding party for his daughter at a posh beachside hotel.

"I went to bed a millionaire and woke up in debt," Zahreddin said the next day. "The hotel refused to accept my Kuwaiti dinar check to settle the party bill."

Another Lebanese resident of Kuwait, Mahmoud Kurdi, drove from Kuwait to spend his summer vacation at home in the ancient city of Baalbek in east Lebanon.

He crossed the Syrian border into Lebanon Aug. 1 and stopped at the market town of Chitaura to cash a bank check of 50,000 Kuwaiti dinars, roughly \$200,000.

When money changers there demanded what he termed an exaggerated exchange commission, Kurdi decided to cash his check for a better rate in Beirut the next day.

"But the next day Saddam Hussein wiped me out," Kurdi moaned. "My check's now a worthless piece of paper."

The currency crisis boomeranged on businesses. Banks in Beirut have stopped changing dollar checks, offering only to pay the equivalent in Lebanese liras.

Nightlife that was just starting to pick up again after recent fighting has come to a virtual standstill.

Discotheques and restaurants are empty. The fun-loving partygoers who defied the worst spasms of civil war shelling in the last two years are staying home.

"They just can't afford to go out any more," said harman Habib Naimeh, who runs the Megalith, one of Beirut's most frequented pubs.

Bush promotes capital gains cut for budget pact

DENVER (R) — President George Bush Tuesday defended his demand for a capital gains tax cut in any budget agreement with Congress — insisting the controversial tax break would spur the U.S. economy.

Changing the capital gains tax law has become a major stumbling block in negotiations between Congress and the White House on a federal budget for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

Unless a budgetary compromise can be hammered out before the next fiscal year starts, U.S. law mandates automatic across-the-board spending cuts of more than \$100 billion.

Bush's defence of his capital gains tax cut proposal comes as his administration's negotiations with Congress on the budget ended after 11 days of meetings at an air force base outside Washington failed to reach agreement on cutting the deficit by

\$500 billion over five years.

The capital gains tax is a levy on the increase in the value of an asset like property or stocks between the date it was acquired and the date it was sold.

Despite cries from Democrats that Bush's call for slashing the capital gains tax to as high as 33 per cent down to 15 per cent would benefit only the rich, Bush told a Republican Party fundraising lunch that such a cut would generate new jobs and fuel economic expansion.

"The key issue here at home remains the health of our national economy," he said.

Democrats claim Bush's capital gains proposal would help only America's wealthiest taxpayers while ignoring everyone else — an argument that could tap into the emotions of voters who cast ballots this November for House of Representatives and Senate candidates.

UNCTAD sees Gulf crisis reinforcing world recession

LONDON (R) — The world economy is slipping into recession, a trend likely to be reinforced by the Gulf crisis, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said in a report released Wednesday.

Only some fast-growing economies in Asia and some in the European Community are likely to resist the trend, UNCTAD said in its annual trade and development report.

At an earlier briefing for journalists on the report, an UNCTAD official said if the price of oil stayed at \$30 per barrel, oil-importing countries would have to pay out an extra \$26 billion in 1991.

He said this would eat up a further 10 to 15 per cent of the export earnings that developing countries which import oil have

left after they service their external debts.

UNCTAD was set up in 1964 to promote better international trading conditions for developing countries and help raise their standard of living.

This year's report was completed before Iraq's takeover of Kuwait in early August but the agency has updated some of its analysis in the light of events.

The UNCTAD report was the latest in a series of analyses on the world economy that predict the Gulf crisis will add to economic woes.

The International Monetary Fund, which starts its annual meeting in Washington next week, has painted a bleak picture for Third World countries that are heavily dependent on im-

ported oil.

The World Bank has warned that developing countries face serious consequences as a result of higher oil prices and rising world interest rates and concluded that only 11 developing countries, which produce and export oil, stood to gain.

UNCTAD said most developing countries would have to cut back import volumes because of higher oil bills. This would have a negative impact on welfare and growth and would seriously jeopardise efforts to cope with debt problems.

It singled out Eastern Europe as a region particularly vulnerable to a sustained increase in oil prices and said a \$30 barrel would take up half its hard currency earnings.

Greenspan gives gloomy assessment of American economy

WASHINGTON (R) — Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan said Wednesday that, while the Gulf crisis is adding uncertainty and substantial risks to the U.S. economy, he does not foresee a recession as yet.

But the central bank chief also said the trend in U.S. inflation has not improved and higher oil prices following Iraq's takeover of Kuwait reduce chances the rate of inflation will drop soon.

"Despite the general sluggishness in business activity this year, the underlying trend in inflation has not improved," Greenspan said in testimony for the Joint Economic Committee of Congress.

Greenspan said that while U.S. economic growth is sluggish at best, he does not foresee a recession at this time.

"Judging from both hard data and more anecdotal reports, we are not — least as yet — witnessing a cumulative unwinding of economic activity," Greenspan said.

Greenspan said the central bank still lacks sufficient data to make a solid assessment of the direction of the economy, but noted that reports from businesses suggest that companies are pulling back on investment plans and consumers are tightening up on spending.

The head of the central bank said he would be surprised if recent developments in the Gulf did not contribute to some pull-back by consumers and businesses, but the lack of data made it difficult to assess the extent of any cutback in spending or production that may be underway.

But the Gulf crisis has introduced "new and substantial risks" to the U.S. economic outlook, he said. Higher oil prices have added to overall price pressures and may have begun to restrain economic activity, he said.

"In addition to the effects of the higher oil prices per se, just the enormous uncertainty about how and when the tensions in the Gulf will be resolved undoubtedly is affecting the economy in a negative way," Greenspan told the House of Representatives and Senate economic committee.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES			
Wednesday, September 19, 1990			
Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	657.0	661.0	126.7 127.5
Pound Sterling	1299.3	1266.9	475.1 478.0
Deutsche mark	424.1	426.6	376.3 378.6
Swiss franc	510.2	513.3	115.1 115.8
			56.6 56.9
			206.1 207.3

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.			
One Sterling	1.9140/50	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.5385/90	Canadian dollar	
	1.5520/27	Deutsche mark	
	1.7485/95	Dutch guilder	
	1.2880/90	Swiss franc	
	31.90/95	Belgian franc	
	5.1940/90	French franc	
	1162/1163	Italian lire	
	137.90/138.00	Japanese yen	
	5.7040/115	Swedish crown	
	6.0080/130	Norwegian crown	
	5.9145/95	Danish crown	
One ounce of gold	386.50/387.00	U.S. dollars	

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Samir Ghanem, Ahmad Bdeir

KILL MY WIFE WITH THANKS
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:45, 6:45, 9:15

Cinema Tel: 699238

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Izzat Al Aileh
Yahya Al Fakhrani

Execution of a Judge

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The start of the autumn Spanish language courses. Registration for this course starts on Sept. 24 and lasts until Sept. 30.

Course begins on Oct. 1 and runs for three months. Courses for all levels — three hours per week for each level. Fees for each course: JD 40 including books.

For more information please call the Spanish Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman, First Circle tel: 624649 daily except Fridays and Sundays.

NOTICE

Any Information concerning Miss Francia Villar of Philippine nationality will be appreciated.

Please contact telephones, 645161, 643421, 665836

Cambodian council talks collapse

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — The first meeting of a council formed of all Cambodia's warring factions collapsed Wednesday with each side accusing the other of endangering the body convened to guide the nation to democracy.

"Our regret is that in the three days of our meeting, we have not been able to reach any agreement at all," Premier Hun Sen of the Vietnamese-installed Cambodian government told a news conference.

"The first meeting is not yet over," he said. "It's only a temporary adjournment."

Hun Sen left Phnom Penh shortly afterwards. There was no word on when talks might resume.

The Supreme National Council held only one formal meeting, at the opening session Monday at the Cambodian embassy. For the next two days, the factions stayed in their Bangkok hotel.

The council currently consists of six government representatives and two from each of the three allied guerrilla groups: The Khmer Rouge, the forces of former head of state Norodom Sihanouk and the Khmer People's

National Liberation Front led by former Premier Son Sann.

A plan adopted last month by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, and embraced last week by the Cambodian factions as a basis for a settlement, says the council would be the sole source of authority in the period before elections. But it would cede many of its powers to a U.N. interim authority and peacekeeping force that would guarantee the transition to democratic rule.

The guerrilla coalition wants Sihanouk as the council's 13th member and chairman. Hun Sen said Sihanouk could be chairman, but not an additional member, and the vice chairman should be from the Hun Sen camp. If Sihanouk joined as the 13th member, the government said it also must have another member.

Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan told a news conference that Hun Sen also wanted to lead the U.N. delegation if Sihanouk was the council chairman. Other guerrilla officials said they objected to that because it would grant Hun Sen too much legitimacy.

Son Sann said if the guerrillas

accepted Hun Sen as head of the U.N. delegation, "we accept the fait accompli of the occupation of Cambodia by the Vietnamese. We cannot accept that when we have fought for 11 years to liberate our country."

In a statement Wednesday, the Khmer Rouge said that rejecting Sihanouk, "can only be construed as an attempt to kill the permanent five document and the Jakarta joint statement... and therefore to prolong the war in Cambodia."

It said Sihanouk is the only Cambodian statesman accepted by all Cambodians and other countries and only he can play a key role in achieving national reconciliation and implementation of the U.N. plan.

The Hun Sen side said if the leadership questions could not be resolved, it should have been deferred so that the council could address other issues, including arranging a ceasefire, ending outside military aid, and choosing a delegation to the U.N. General Assembly.

The guerrillas rejected this. A Hun Sen statement said, "preference to obstruct the (council) from solving other questions."

The General Assembly opened Tuesday, and its members had hoped that the seat currently occupied by the guerrilla coalition, led by Sihanouk, would be transferred to the Supreme National Council.

A statement from the coalition's U.N. representation, dated Tuesday, said the seat would be left "unattended" until a council chairman is elected.

"I ask myself how come I have come into confrontation with Sihanouk when our object was to confront the Khmer Rouge," Hun Sen told the news conference Wednesday.

"I would like to stress I have no intention to confront Prince Sihanouk, but the question of principle forced me," he said.

Sihanouk said from his Peking home that he was ill and could not attend the meetings in Jakarta or this week in Bangkok.

His son and main representative, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, also disrupted the Bangkok talks by leaving for Paris Tuesday and appointing a replacement on the Supreme National Council. Ranariddh denied he was boycotting the talks or blocking their success.

Jaruzelski to step down early as president

WARSAW (AP) — Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, who as Communist leader tried to crush Solidarity in 1981 and all but surrendered power last year, will step down early as president, his office announced Wednesday.

The move will allow Poland, the first East Bloc country to oust ruling Communists when a Solidarity-led government was formed last year, to complete its transition to democracy with the popular election of a president.

On Monday, Solidarity Chairman Lech Walesa became the first person to declare his candidacy for the post. Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki also is known to be considering a bid for president.

Parliament is to begin debate Thursday on a schedule for the elections, which are expected as early as this fall and no later than the spring.

Jaruzelski's announcement came a day after he met with Walesa and Mazowiecki and they agreed on accelerating plans for holding post-Communist Poland's first fully democratic general elections.

The current parliament, elected last year, includes holdovers from the old leadership who as part of a political compromise took seats without a challenge at the polls.

A spokesman for Jaruzelski said in a statement that the general wishes parliament "to enable him to transfer the office he holds to a president chosen in a general election."

Jaruzelski was elected to a six-year term as president by parliament in July 1989, with some support from Solidarity members, largely to smooth relations with the Soviet Union in the early months of democratic change.

S. African police briefly detain Winnie Mandela

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Police briefly detained Winnie Mandela Wednesday after stopping her car at a roadblock and finding spent cartridges in her vehicle, witnesses said.

Mrs. Mandela, who is to face charges of kidnapping and assault in a 1988 incident, was travelling to visit residents in the Tokozwa township when she was stopped at a police roadblock.

Police searched her car, found spent cartridges and then took Mrs. Mandela to the local police station, witnesses said. She was released shortly afterward.

Mrs. Mandela, wife of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, told police the cartridges were given to her by local residents, witnesses said.

The government Tuesday said it would prosecute Mrs. Mandela in a case two years ago in which four youths were allegedly abducted and beaten at her home.

One of them was killed, and the head of Mrs. Mandela's former bodyguard unit, Jerry Richardson, has been convicted of murder, kidnapping and assault.

The three surviving men testi-

fied that Mrs. Mandela beat them with a whip.

Mrs. Mandela faces four counts of kidnapping and four counts of assault and is expected to be formally charged Monday.

Neither Mrs. Mandela nor her husband have commented on the pending charges, but they have said previously they would welcome the chance for her to defend herself in court.

The ANC said it objected to Mrs. Mandela's "trial by media," but did criticize the government.

Also Wednesday, President F.W. de Klerk met with his cabinet and Mandela conferred with his African National Congress as both sides sought solutions Wednesday to the violence in black townships around Johannesburg.

The government's decision to prosecute Mrs. Mandela for kidnapping and assault also was likely to come up at the two meetings.

Local media reports said de Klerk was expected to announce additional steps to curb the violence, possibly a dusk-to-dawn curfew in black areas near Johannesburg.

Former Gibraltar governor survives attack by gunmen

LONDON (R) — Surgeons worked through the night to save a former governor of Gibraltar wounded in a hail of bullets fired at his home by a suspected Irish nationalist guerrilla.

One surgeon said Wednesday they removed three bullets and "literally dozens" of bullet fragments from Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Terry, who as Gibraltar's governor approved a controversial commando operation in which three Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas were killed.

Terry, 63, was in intensive care after a series of operations that lasted more than five hours but

surgeon John Lotz said his condition was stable.

Police said the attack bore the hallmarks of the IRA.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, visiting Hungary, said: "The IRA now seem to be going for people who are defenceless at the time they are attacked. It is thoroughly cowardly."

On Tuesday, before the attack on Terry, the IRA admitted it was responsible for a wave of bombing and shooting across Britain in the past six weeks in its guerrilla campaign to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Political violence continues in Soviet Georgia as polls near

MOSCOW (R) — Unidentified gunmen hurling petrol bombs and firing automatic weapons set fire to the headquarters of two rival nationalist groups in Tbilisi, capital of Soviet Georgia, before dawn Wednesday.

The independent Iberia News Agency said five people were wounded, two seriously, in the attacks, the latest in a series of violent incidents in the Transcaucasian republic.

"Three cars full of armed men attacked the headquarters of the radical Party of National Independence, tossing petrol bombs and firing from Kalashnikov rifles," Zurab Kodlashvili, a journalist with Iberia, said by telephone.

They set fire to the empty office on Tbilisi's main street,

Rustaveli Prospekt, headed for the headquarters of another group, the National Democratic Party, broke in, beat up five guards and set the building on fire.

The attackers fled, firing sawn-off shotguns and automatics, Kodlashvili said.

The motive for the attack was not known.

Nationalism in the Transcaucasian republic boiled over in April 1989 when 19 people were killed in Tbilisi in an assault on a pro-independence rally.

Gunbattles have broken out recently between rival groups and authorities are bracing for more violence before elections for the republic's official parliament on Oct. 28.

The National Democratic Party

and the Party of National Independence have both called on Georgians to boycott the polls and want to create a Georgian National Congress, bypassing the official parliament.

Other groups, hoping to capture a parliamentary majority and legislate Georgia's way to independence, have pledged to resist this campaign.

The attack followed the storming of the Georgia offices of the KGB security agency by protesters demanding the release of a political activist.

The official TASS news agency said demonstrators seized the first floor of the local KGB building Sunday night, smashing furniture, breaking windows and stealing files. Others sealed off the main entrance to the Georgian Interior Ministry.

Top U.S. official flies to Monrovia

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Herman Cohen flew Tuesday to the embattled Liberian capital of Monrovia and met with rebel leader Prince Johnson as machine-guns fire tore through the air near the U.S. embassy.

Cohen is on a peace mission that will take him to several West African nations including Ivory Coast, where he said he hoped to meet Johnson's rival, rebel leader Charles Taylor, Western diplomats in Freetown said.

The British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) reported that Cohen arrived as Brig.-Gen. David Nimley, the officer who took over from slain President Samuel Doe, announced his remaining troops were fighting their way through downtown Monrovia toward the city port to protect supporters who are waiting to be evacuated.

Nimley's statement came after three days of burning, looting and shooting by his men.

Gunfire echoed across the capital as the remnants of Doe's army battled Johnson's fighters.

Ozone hole detected early this year

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Antarctic ozone hole has been detected a month earlier this year than in the past, due to improved methods of measuring the chemical, federal officials have reported.

Instruments aboard a polar orbiting satellite detected the beginning of an ozone hole on Aug. 22, and the region of depleted ozone has enlarged since then, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced Tuesday.

The thin layer of ozone high in the Earth's atmosphere protects the planet from dangerous ultraviolet radiation from the sun. Manmade chemicals, particu-

larly chlorofluorocarbons, can damage that layer and scientists fear an increase of skin cancer and other damage to humans, animals and plants could occur if the thinning occurs over a populated region.

The so-called hole, actually a region of depleted ozone, has been detected during several recent Antarctic winters.

In the past, however, instruments have been able to measure ozone only using visible light. Because Antarctica has nearly six months of darkness in its winter, detection of the ozone hole has been possible only after mid-September in past years.

Now, NOAA reported, satel-

lite-borne instruments have been used to measure ozone using infrared radiation, allowing the ozone hole to be detected during the darkness.

The ozone hole is generally worst in October, which is springtime in that region.

NOAA officials said that they have collected infrared measurements from the region for several years but only now have figured out how to use this data to calculate the ozone loss during the Antarctic darkness.

That past data remains in storage and scientists hope that they can now use it to calculate dates and strength of the ozone hole for past years.

S. Korea reshuffles cabinet

SEOUL (R) — President Roh Tae-Woo sacked two ministers and transferred a third Wednesday to counter criticism by South Koreans who blame the government for floods last week and are angry over farm policy.

But the opposition demanded other ministers resign following the devastating floods that killed at least 127 people.

A presidential spokesman said the reshuffle of the construction, agricultural and environmental portfolios was intended to accelerate recovery from the floods and to strengthen agriculture.

Farmers have been angered by Seoul's participating in the current Uruguay round of global trade talks, fearing that opening agriculture markets will endanger their livelihoods.

The main opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) said the floods around Seoul showed the inadequacy of the government's anti-disaster policies.

"President Roh should also have removed the prime minister, interior minister and mayor of Seoul to defuse a growing public anger. Today's cabinet reshuffle falls far short of the people's expectations," a PPD spokesman said.

Another opposition group, the Democratic Party, said the entire 24-member cabinet should resign.

Kwon's ministry has been criticised for failing to control the water levels in dams along the Han River, which caused the floods in Seoul and surrounding areas.

The surging Han swamped huge areas of farmland and levelled hundreds of houses after bursting its banks near a village northwest of Seoul. Property loss from the nation's worst down-pour in 70 years was estimated at \$500 million.

Agriculture Minister Kang Bo-Song was succeeded by Environment Minister Cho Kyung-Shik. Cho's post was filled by Huh Nam-Hoon, former vice-trade minister.

The state-run Korea Broadcasting System said Kang was replaced in response to recent violent protests by farmers who have denounced Seoul's negotiations on opening domestic markets to agricultural imports.

Thousands of farmers battled with riot police in provincial cities this month after rallies demanding the government refuse to make concessions on reducing agricultural subsidies and removing trade restrictions on farm products.

Canada troops clash with Mohawks; scores injured

MONTREAL (R) — A solution to the 10-week Mohawk crisis in Quebec seemed more elusive than ever Wednesday after Canadian soldiers clashed with Indians in a brawl that left scores injured.

The violence broke out Tuesday afternoon when Mohawks confronted 100 soldiers who had been airlifted onto an island in the Kahawake Reservation south of Montreal to search for illegal weapons.

About 200 native men, women and children advanced on the soldiers, jostling and punching several of them.

An army spokesman said between five and seven soldiers were injured in the fighting.

Television cameras showed a Mohawk punching a soldier and bloodying his nose. Another soldier was knocked down, kicked and struck repeatedly over the head with his own helmet.

The soldiers beat the Indians back with their rifle butts and fired tear gas into the crowd. Several natives were hurt as they leapt into the icy waters between the Tekakwitha Island and the reservation's mainland to escape the gas.

Doctor Louis Montour of the Kateri Memorial Hospital on the reservation said a 15-year-old girl whose hip might have been broken and a 24-year-old man with an injured knee were taken to the Montreal General Hospital.

He said up to 75 natives were treated for tear gas exposure and then released.

Soldiers fired rounds into the air as more Mohawks swept down from the reservation to confront them. Six hours after they had landed, the troops were airlifted off the reservation.

Delhi students try to burn themselves in protest

NEW DELHI (R) — Three Delhi University students set themselves ablaze Wednesday in protest against plans to reserve more government jobs for Hinduism's lower castes.

Riot policemen dropped tear-gas canisters, guns and batons and rushed forward to save the students' lives, suffering burns themselves as they tore off or beat at blazing clothes.

The three students were taken to hospital, one of them with burns on about 50 per cent of his body.

About 1,000 students, 300 riot police and journalists had gathered outside a university college on the southern outskirts of the Indian capital, expecting student road blockades and clashes with police similar to those which started five weeks ago.

Students in the upper castes of Hinduism's rigid hierarchy have led protests throughout north India against plans announced last month to increase the proportion of government jobs set aside for low castes to nearly 50 per cent.

U.S. to close or cut operations at 150 military bases

WASHINGTON (R) — The worldwide U.S. military presence, built up over decades to face the perceived Soviet menace, will be cut substantially in response to warming East-West relations and a U.S. budget crunch at home.

U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Tuesday the Pentagon will begin closing 127 bases and cutting operations at 23 others in 10 countries starting next year.

Most of the cuts will be in West Germany, where the United States currently has about 190,000 soldiers stationed as part of NATO forces long arrayed against the now-collapsed Warsaw Pact.

"It will certainly be the biggest such move since after World War II," said Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams. He said the move would help address expected U.S. and Soviet cuts under a pending Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Agreement.

"In reviewing our needs for forces through the mid-1990s and

in light of declining defence budgets, we continue to identify locations overseas where we can reduce our forces," Cheney said in a statement released by the Pentagon.

"The U.S. military will end its operations at 94 sites in Germany, 11 in Spain, nine in Korea, three each in Greece, Italy, the United Kingdom and Australia and at one site in Japan."

Operations also will be reduced at 14 sites in Germany, three in Korea, two in Spain and one each in Italy, Japan, Canada and Bermuda, he said.

Williams declined to predict how many American troops might come home, but he told reporters he expected more base announcements in the future.

He said many of the cuts will be at small sites such as communications facilities, but three major air bases will be closed: Torrejon near Madrid, and Lindsey and Hesse Oldendorf in West Germany.

There is little need for the Torrejon facility now that Spain

has ordered U.S. F-16 based there to leave. Those jets are expected to move to Italy by 1992.

It was the second such base-closing announcement by Cheney this year in response to warming U.S.-Soviet relations and a budget crunch at home. In January, he announced the shut-down of 14 overseas facilities and asked the U.S. Congress to agree to close or reduce operations in another 55 in the United States.

Under U.S. law, Cheney can close overseas bases without congressional approval, although lawmakers can influence the outcome through budget controls. Domestic base closings are a tough political and financial issue in Congress, where lawmakers often seek to preserve bases in their home states.

Bonn welcomed Tuesday's Washington announcement that the United States would withdraw troops from West Germany, but said it was also important that the U.S. retain some military presence.

"The withdrawal of a large number of American troops is a clear sign of the efforts for disarmament in Europe," the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

It said about 60,000 of the 190,000 U.S. troops now here would leave by 1997.

East and West Germany, on the front line during the cold war, have been among the most heavily militarised areas in the world. Moscow has agreed to withdraw its contingent of more than 350,000 troops from East Germany over the next four years, but Bonn wants its Western allies to retain a presence.

"It is especially important, also for the Atlantic alliance, that the U.S. is prepared to continue to keep armed forces on the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany," the Bonn statement said.

Departure of the troops is likely to have a negative effect on local economies in some parts of West Germany.



Virus set to halt personal computers this Saturday

SYDNEY (R) — A flawed computer virus programme, first detected in Israel but which has since spread, is set to "freeze" personal computers throughout the world on Sept. 22, Australian scientists said Wednesday.

Computer specialist Emylin Creevy of the Queensland University of Technology said by telephone that the hard-to-detect programme, known as "trodo," will halt all operations in infected computers from Sept. 22. He said that although the virus does not immediately destroy computer data once activated, other researchers report that if used often it corrupts files with gibberish. Creevy, leader of the university's Computer Virus Information Group, said the debilitating programme was discovered in Australian government computers in August.

"It takes over your system and does everything it can to interrupt (operations)," he said from Brisbane.

Professor Bill Caelli, director of the university's Information Security Research Centre, said the virus affects all IBM and IBM-compatible personal computers (PCs) relying on the DOS system. He said it was first uncovered in computers of the Israeli army in April and has since been found in computers in Britain and the United States. The virus has spread via computer bulletin boards, public domain software, and sharing of programmes, Caelli said.

Pastor accused of trying to 'beat the devil' out of man

HONDO, Texas (AP) — A pastor and two church members accused of trying to "beat the devil" out of a south Texas man have gone on trial on false imprisonment charges. The Rev. James Douglas Price, 42, pastor of First Assembly of God Church, and brothers Robert Leo Nixon Jr., 42, and Alvin Ray Nixon, 31, are accused of false imprisonment in the Jan. 29 incident. According to a grand jury indictment, the three used force and intimidation to detain Everett Weimers, 43, and slapped him and poured oil on him as part of a religious rite. Dr. Ricardo Castillo, who treated Weimers for facial and shoulder injuries, testified Monday that Weimers told him several men tried to beat the devil out of him in an exorcism. The doctor said Weimers told him that before the beating he spoke with Price and told him he had been despondent over marital and financial problems. "The preacher told him the reason he was feeling that way was that he had the devil in him and needed to be exorcised," the doctor said. "Then the preacher went to get some more parishioners to beat it out of his system."

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